

**ALEXANDER**

**BAPTIST**

**HISTORY**

**1979**



**BY WALTER W. HARRINGTON**



Price \$ 2.50

**ALEXANDER**

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**BAPTIST**

**HISTORY**



*by Walter W. Henshaw*

DEDICATED

TO

SMITH FERGUSON

LEROY PARKS GWALTNEY

ERNEST V. BUMGARNER

IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SACRIFICIAL SERVICE TO THEIR  
LORD AND SAVIOR AND THE BAPTISTS OF ALEXANDER AND  
SURROUNDING COUNTIES, AND THE INSPIRATION THEY HAVE  
GIVEN TO US WHO FOLLOW.

Among the leading ministers of the early Baptist in Alexander and neighboring territory was Smith Ferguson. He was born and lived in Wilkes County but led the promotion of Baptist life in Alexander and adjoining counties. Isaac Oxford and J. B. Pool, Committee on Obituaries, published in the Minutes of the Brushy Mountain Association of 1878, state that a complete biography of this great man would embrace the history of the Baptist denomination for a half century in Western North Carolina.

Elder Ferguson was born in the Kings Creek section of Wilkes County March 8, to James and Sarah Ferguson and died March 12, 1878, at the age of 87. He served in the war of 1812 for which he drew a pension for life. He made a profession of Faith and joined Kings Creek Church before entering the service of his country. He was ordained a minister May 27, 1825. "There never was a stain on his ministry or Christian character in his 53 years of service of his Lord". He helped build churches in destitute places and was an inspiration and counselor to young preachers.

For 21 years Elder Ferguson was pastor of Little River Church, Alexander County, but was one of those dismissed from the church over the Temperance question, 1851. He was a total abstainer and preached it. During his ministry at Little River nine or ten ministers were ordained. On being dismissed, Ferguson led the group to Taylorsville and organized this church, became its pastor and served for ten years.

Elder Ferguson was Moderator of the Lewis Fork Association for 15 years, and led in the formation of the Taylorsville Association in 1852. He served as its Moderator for the life of this association except for one year because of illness. He was the instrument in bringing the Taylorsville Lower Creek and Lewis Fork Associations together as the United Association in 1860, was elected its Moderator and served four or more terms. We do not have the records of 1865-67. He also led in forming the Brushy Mountain Association, 1872.

Smith Ferguson was recognized as an outstanding preacher wherever he was heard. This is quite evident by the almost constant preaching at the Associational meetings in his own and other associations as well as the Western Baptist Convention.

## LEROY PARKS GWALTNEY

Leroy Parks Gwaltney was born November 3, 1848, the son of James Gwaltney and Rinda Stephenson Gwaltney. Both families were very prominent in early Alexander History, and especially in church life. They lived in the Vashti section.

Young Parks' biggest day came when he started to school. He ran all the way, but was still a little late, however this did not embarrass the young lad. He marched to the front, took his seat and announced, "Well, I've Come." He completed the free school, course and enrolled in high school at Vashti, and later in William A. Pool's school at Sulphur Springs. From this he entered Wake Forrest College, but had to give up after a year or two, because of failing eyesight.

Gwaltney was in his early teens during the Civil War, but joined the Home Guard and rode the mountains in search of deserters and the Stoneman Raiders who holed in at Holman's Ford where Lewis Fork enters the Yadkin River, known as Fort Hamby. This gang was finally captured, except Wade, one of the leaders, and shot on the nearby hilltop, by a group from Alexander, led by Wall Sharpe and one from Caldwell led by Rev. Isaac Oxford. Parks Gwaltney had a bullet clip some hair from his head in one of these raids. His close buddy was killed. It would seem that God yet had greater things for Gwaltney.

He married Martha Ellen Hines, daughter of Benny Hines of Sulphur Springs, July 11, 1873. This is

probably the Benjamin Hines listed as delegate from Mt. Gilead Church to the Taylorsville Baptist Association in 1856, and a charter member of Sulphur Springs Church.

Parks Gwaltney was a striking personality, strong and muscular, rudy faced with piercing, sparkling eyes and a voice clear as a bell. In his youth his hair and beard were black, but when I knew him they were white, giving him a most dignified appearance.

His first sermon was at Bethel, his home church. A great crowd was in attendance, including several preachers. His text was Nahum 1:3, "The Lord is slow to anger and great in power and will not acquit the wicked. The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet." This text seems appropriate as a former editor of the Greensboro Daily News spoke of him as a "Machine gun preacher."

The young preacher spoke only about 15 or 20 minutes, and was so disgusted with his efforts that he slipped out a window and went off into the woods. He later became noted for his short sermons as many older preachers often spoke for an hour or more. However, the crowd was thrilled by this young man. He had said more in that few minutes than many preachers did in an hour. He became quite popular and was soon recognized as one of the leading preachers in this part of the country. He was in much demand as a speaker for any kind of meeting, as a pastor or for revivals. W. E. Linney, in his book, "School of the Prophets", and also Ernest V. Bumgarner, in his memorial in the 1926 Minutes of the Alexander Baptist Association, call him the greatest preacher they had ever heard. Any reader of this would do well to read both of these accounts.

Elder (as ministers were called then) L. P. Gwaltney became pastor of my church, Taylorsville First Baptist, in 1888 and continued until 1893. He was called again in 1901, replaced in 1903 and called again in 1904. Churches practiced the yearly call in those days, and often pastors were called and recalled in this manner. From 1904 Elder Gwaltney continued until 1918 when he resigned because of ill health and age. He served a total of 20 years, the longest of any pastor at the Taylorsville Church.



of which he was the honored and much loved pastor for several years. Here the body was laid to rest to await the final call of his Master. The churches have contributed funds to erect a monument to his memory.

## ERNEST V. BUMGARNER

Ernest V. Bumgarner was born June 9, 1885, in the Lebanon community of Alexander County, to Rev. W. Jeffie and Lizzie Kerley Bumgarner. He was educated in the public schools of the county and Taylorsville Collegiate Institute, and is one of its most noted graduates.

Poplar Springs Church asked for his ordination in 1914 and called him as pastor. Other churches he served were: Mount Olive, Hiddenite, Sulphur Springs, Lebanon, Stony Point, Little River, Kings Creek, Zion Hill (29 years), Walnut Grove, Moravian Falls, Linney's Grove, Cub Creek, Mount Hebron, Dudley Shoals, Dover, Bethlehem, East Taylorsville, Taylorsville for 15 years and Three Forks (23 years). For 54 years he served his Lord and the Baptist churches of this section. Like Parks Gwaltney, he could have served in large churches, but stayed in the rural sections or small towns.

Rev. Bumgarner passed to his heavenly reward March 15, 1967. Marion Powell used the same text which Bumgarner had used for Rev. Gwaltney's, "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel." In fact, what has been said about Gwaltney can well be said about Rev. Bumgarner. He was my pastor for 15 years and was recognized as one of the outstanding ministers of his day in Western North Carolina. He was buried at Lebanon and the churches have erected a monument to his memory.

## PREFACE

Alexander Baptist History is more than a title. It is the Christian lives of a multitude of those faithful servants of our Lord through almost two centuries. It is not the work of this writer alone, but many who have observed our work in the past. I could not name all of them, but a few of the most outstanding are: William E. White, James Shaver, W. J. Bumgarner, E. V. Bumgarner, A. C. Payne, Charles E. Echerd and Miss Lucy Echerd, our present Historian. Also we are indebted to Dr. George W. Paschal for his history of North Carolina Baptist.

A historian has a very serious and sometimes embarrassing tasks. In research he finds various discrepancies in tradition and "Handed Down" accounts. In the matter of the original members of the Sons of Temperance, I have found two variations different from the one I had always heard. All three incorrect or incomplete. I must therefore go with the one quoted in the Cause of Separation in the minutes of the first session of the Taylorsville Baptist Association in 1852.

It was the discovery of these minutes and others that no one seemed to know even existed, that prompted me to attempt this history. I do not claim that I have found the complete and correct account in every respect, but I have done the best I could, and do not find fault with anyone for the misunderstanding or miss information they have had. I only hope that the history will be taken in the spirit in which it is given, and we can see where we have been and realize where we should be going. May the good Lord bless and inspire all who read this.

We want to thank Mrs. Marshall Sargent, Ronald Rowe and Robert Boggs our Editorial Board for their help in proofreading and advise, and especially Mrs. Sargent for the typing.

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# ALEXANDER BAPTIST HISTORY

by

WALTER W. HARRINGTON

According to the best records available, Little River Baptist was the first church constituted in what is now Alexander County. Our associational minutes have carried the date as 1792 since 1929, but the church was admitted to the Yadkin Association in 1791. Therefore, the date of constitution must have been 1791, or 1790. Elder John Swaim and Solomon Barnes were delegates to the Yadkin Association in 1791 and Elder Edward Teague in 1795. It appears that Swaim was the first pastor, and Teague the pastor in 1795.

Elder Edward Teague organized the New Meeting House of Middle Little River in 1797, at what is now known as the Teague-Monday grave yard on Highway 127. Others were Elders Henry Holsclaw and Benjamin Austin, and Deacons Willian Sherrill and Nathan Austin.

The founders of these first churches seem to have been Separate Baptists under the influence of that great minister Shubal Stearns of Sandy Creek Church and Association. As a result of persecution by Edmund Fanning under orders of Governor Tryon and Tryon himself, many Baptists had left that area for farther west and peace. Tryon was of the established Church of England, and was determined to rid the colony of dissenters, especially Baptist and Quakers. Morgan Edwards says that Sandy Creek Church had been reduced from 606 to 14, and Little River from 500 to 48. Solomon Barnes, Brinsley Barnes, Edward Teague, William Teague and many others had signed a petition to Governor Tryon for better treatment by the colonial officials. However, they received worse. They were routed in the Battle of Alamance, in May 1771, and scattered as were the Christians of old.

It is reasonable to conclude that the folk who founded these early churches of Alexander were from the Little River and Sandy Creek Churches of Randolph County, as they named the rivers and churches, Little River.

## LEWIS FORK ASSOCIATION

The Lewis Fork Association had a great influence on the early religious life of what is now Alexander. Little River and Antioch were charter members when it was formed in 1835, and Dover and Macedonia joined the next year. The fourth meeting was at Antioch in 1839, Little River in 1844, and Dover in 1847. Mount Gilead was admitted in 1847, and Pleasant Hill in 1853. In 1864 the association recommended the United Baptist Institute at Taylorsville as a fine school, especially for ministers. In the 1855 meeting at Little River the association dismissed Dover and Antioch to join in forming the Lower Creek Association. All ministers of Lewis Fork Association were required to visit each church and report at the next session of the association. The reports of the spiritual condition of the churches were not very complimentary. Each church was asked to increase their contributions. Three Forks joined the Lewis Fork Association in 1857. Home and foreign missions were recommended, also Sunday School, along with founding a female college in Western North Carolina, and reading the Biblical Recorder and the Carolina Baptist. A mission sermon was mentioned in 1859 for the first time. A collection of \$2.10 was taken for missions. Pilgrim was admitted in 1859 and the Lewis Fork, Taylorsville, and Lower Creek Associations proposed uniting into one association.

## ALEXANDER COUNTY

When Alexander County was formed in 1847, there were seven Baptist churches within its bounds: Antioch, Bethel, Dover, Little River, Mt. Gilead, Macedonia and Pilgrim.

Mount Gilead was located on Davis Creek between Rocky Springs and Sulphur Springs. The address was given 1852-1858 as Taylorsville and in 1859 as York College Institute. The church was admitted to the Lewis

Fork Association in 1847, with Rev. James J. Watts pastor, and Elijah Hines delegate. Mt. Gilead became a charter member of the Taylorsville Association in 1852. Watts was still pastor. This association met with Mt. Gilead in 1856, but no pastor is listed. Isaac Oxford is listed in 1857 and Jacob Crouch in 1859. The United Baptist Association was organized in 1859, and Mt. Gilead became a charter member.

In 1862 the church was charged in the annual meeting with more or less violating the constitution in regard to alcohol. After investigation, the church was given one year indulgence, to clear herself. Mt. Gilead does not appear in the minutes after this. It was evidently disbanded. Prominent names were Hines, Lackey, Anderson, and Ellis. Benjamin Hines and Elijah Hines became charter members of Sulphur Springs Church in 1867.

## TEMPERANCE, MISSIONS AND EDUCATION

### IN

## TAYLORSVILLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

About the middle of the nineteenth century grave trouble arose in many of the churches and associations of western North Carolina over the "institutions of the day," such as Sunday School, Missionary Unions, Bible Societies, schools for preachers, etc. The Mountain Association had declared itself Anti-Missionary, and claimed that the missionaries were about to erect a monument to Luther Rice at a cost of \$50,000.00 -- \$100,000.00. Also the association spoke out against the institutions of the day and everything the North Carolina Baptist Convention was doing.

One of the most disturbing things was the Sons of Temperance. Those who joined this organization took an oath not to make, sell or use alcohol as a beverage. Some preachers and laymen looked on joining this organization, considered a secret society, a sin. This

caused splits in churches and associations.

The Taylorsville Meeting House (now Taylorsville First Baptist Church) was the first church thus formed. Rev. John W. Jones and Mr. James F. Steele had joined the Sons of Temperance. They were brought before the Little River Church, Alexander County, North Carolina, and voted out by a majority of 70 to 29. The church then voted the 29 who were against the action out also. (Led by Rev. Smith Ferguson, who had been pastor of the Little River Church for 21 years and Moderator of the Lewis Fork Association for 14 years, Rev. Jones and others, the group excommunicated, appealed to the Lewis Fork Association, meeting with Macedonia Church, Taylorsville, North Carolina, October 3-5, 1851, for relief, but to no avail, as will be shown). Therefore, the 31 with 20 others who had been treated in like manner by churches in Wilkes and Ashe Counties and five blacks met in Taylorsville on Monday, October 6, 1851, and organized the Taylorsville Church with Rev. Smith Ferguson, pastor. The next year this church led others of the same persuasion on temperance and missions in forming the Taylorsville Baptist Association, Taylorsville with 68 members and Mt. Gilead 28 members from Alexander County; Antioch, Brier Creek, Fishing Creek and Pleasant Grove from Wilkes; Jefferson, Ashe, Taylor Springs, Iredell; and Union, Caldwell. Ferguson was elected Moderator and Samuel Smith, Clerk.

The churches representatives met in Taylorsville October 25, 1852, and a committee was appointed to present their cause which is as follows:

## CAUSE OF SEPARATION

The committee to whom was referred the task of assigning the reason for calling the present Convention, now sitting at this place for the purpose of relieving themselves from the burdens, by which they are now oppressed, in discharging the duty enjoined upon them, do hereby submit the following report:



That whereas the subject of Temperance reformation, which has for a long period occupied the attention, and called forth the exertions of the wise and good of our land, both in and out of the church of Christ, has been the innocent cause of exclusion to many elders and pastors as well as lay members of the Baptist church, from the rights and privileges of church fellowship for no other reason than that of being Sons of Temperance or friends of the cause of Temperance. That the Little River Church (within the Lewis Fork bounds) excluded Elder John W. Jones and Mr. James F. Steele upon the ground that it is a sin in them to join the Sons of Temperance. And upon that allegation, the Little River Church took a vote of the church: for excluding 70, against excluding 29. Whereupon brethren Jones and Steele were formally excluded from the church, as were the 29 members who voted against the exclusion of the two brethren aforementioned, and whose only crime was that of being friends to the cause of Temperance. That the exculded brethren presented a petition to the Lewis Fork Association at annual session, 1851, at Macedonia, Alexander County, subsequent to their exclusion for relief, and asked to be dealt with according to the Word of God, and the usage and discipline of the Baptist church; which said petition was rejected by them, and was not even permitted to be read. Your committee further shows that the Brier Creek Association, which assembled at Cool Spring, Wilkes County, passed a resolution in 1851, advising that being a Son of Temperance should be no bar of fellowship in said association and recommended the churches under their care to act upon this principle. Elder S. P. Smith, in attempting to carry out the resolution of said Association, both in regard to the temperance cause, and in the cause of missions; as also Elder Z. B. Adams of the Brier Creek Church, in attempting the same, were excluded from seats in the Association at Brier Creek during the present year 1851, (also Elder Green), contrary to the usage and discipline of the Baptist church, and to the rules and practices of Baptist associations.

Your committee would further show that Elder S. P. Smith acting as pastor of the Fishing Creek Church, within the jurisdiction of the Brier Creek Association



in attempting to carry out the resolution of the Brier Creek Association of 1851, was opposed by the greater portion of the members of his church, who rent off from said church in a disorderly manner, and set up a church in the vicinity of Old Fishing Creek Church; and without cause or authority, and acting in disorder not only excluded Brother Smith, but the other members of Fishing Creek Church who thought and acted with him in this matter. They further show that Elder Richard Gentry and Mary Gentry, his wife, were excluded from Gap Creek Church, and William Gentry from Old Field Church. The grounds of exclusion against Richard and William Gentry being members of the order of Sons of Temperance. And George P. Faw and Aaron Johnson, for being Sons of Temperance were excluded from Beaver Creek Church, and some others from the last named churches, for not being satisfied with the exclusion of the aforesaid sister and brothers of the church, both of said churches being in the bounds of the Three Fork Association.

And, in conclusion, your committee would recommend to this body, the formation of an Association where all worthy brethren of the same faith and order, may find an asylum from the persecution of the branch of the Baptist church, who differ from them with regard to the benevolent institutions of the day, and have excluded them from the visible church militant of Christ, and closed the gates of Zion against them, without gospel precept or precedent; and who discard the heavenly principle of brotherly kindness and charity, so strongly enjoyed by the great head of the church, who is the chief conerstone of that spiritual building, whose maker and builder is God.

There were two articles of interest in the constitution of the association: Art. 6 The association shall have no right to interfere with the internal regulations of the churches, but may tender to them advice and in case any of them should become corrupt in doctrine or practice, exclude them from their fellowship; Art. 12 This association agrees to use her utmost influence to promote the cause of missions and temperance

also declares herself a missionary and temperance body, but does not claim power to compel any of the churches to engage in them against their will, but does enjoin submission. Any church found to be unfellowshipping any member on account of his mission or temperance principle alone, shall be read out of the fellowship of this body as a disturber of the peace of the brethren. Taken from minutes of Taylorsville Association 1852.

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It may seem strange that a church would take such action as Little River and others did on this issue, but there were conditions and customs which may help to explain it. These churches were located in the Brushy Mountains of Alexander and Wilkes Counties where corn and apples were the chief products of the farm, and there was practically no industry. The easiest way to get money, which did not come easy, was to make corn whiskey or apple brandy of these products. This had become a way of life for many of these people, besides the taste had been pretty well established among many of the brethren, even some preachers. Uncle Andy Bumgarner in his book says that in his young manhood there were only two men in Little River and Lebanon communities who did not drink.

Due credit must now be given for a change. In the election on the sale of beer in Alexander county in 1948, there were two votes in Little River Township for the sale. I am sure that this switch was in large measure due to the preaching and living of Rev. Ernest V. Bumgarner, the leading citizen of the community. In the election on Mixed Drinks in 1973, Little River led the county with 24-1 against the issue. Alexander led the state in the money contributed, raising 3 1/2 times the amount asked for. Alexander was second only to Wilkes in the vote -- Wilkes 8.89-1 and Alexander 8.73-1 against.

At the second session of the Taylorsville Association meeting with Fishing Creek Church, Wilkes County, in 1853, three new churches were admitted: Alexander County Concord, John W. Jones, pastor; Liberty Grove, James J. Watts, pastor, and Robert L. Steele, assistant; and

Wilkes County, Mt. Airy, Z. B. Adams, pastor. Rev. John J. Watts was appointed missionary to travel within the association for six months at \$25.00 per month. The clerk paid Rev. Watts the \$21.60 collected to aid the mission cause.

The association took up the part of the Fishing Creek Church letter which recommended a school of high character within the association, whereon Rev. John W. Jones made it known that such a movement had already been started for a high school for men in the town of Taylorsville. Rev. S. P. Smith, pastor of the host church, thought that this was premature and that such a school should be under the control of the association. After discussion, the following was passed:

Resolve that we highly approve the effort made to establish a high school in the town of Taylorsville, Alexander County, North Carolina, to be under the control of the Baptist Denomination and that we will heartily cooperate in the establishment of said school.

Thus, the Taylorsville Association not only led in the Mission and Temperance movement but in the field of education, also. This, United Baptist Institute opened January 8, 1856 and was one of the first such schools in western North Carolina, and became one of the best, issuing full college degrees. (Taken from the catalogues of the school.) Emphasis was placed on training young men for the ministry. It continued until 1909 when the property was turned over to the County Board of Education for a public high school.

The association appointed Rev. Richard Gentry and Rev. Aaron Johnson to write a report on temperance; Rev. Robert L. Steele and Rev. John W. Jones on Home Missions; and Rev. S. P. Smith and Rev. Z. B. Adams on Foreign Missions; thus showing the temperance and mission spirit in the association.

In 1855 the Taylorsville Association received the following letter from the Brier Creek Association;

Inasmuch as some of the members formerly belonging to our association have rent off from us, as we think, in disorder. Resolved, therefore, if they want to become reconciled to us again, if they will call a convention to meet with the Brier Creek Church, we will on our part advise our churches to appoint one member from each church with their pastor to meet with them to try to adjust the difficulty. We also desire the Yadkin Association to appoint a delegate to said Convention, the Jefferson Association also.

W. F. Adams, Clerk  
S. D. Swain, Moderator

### ANSWER OF THE TAYLORSVILLE ASSOCIATION

It is the opinion of this association that the brethren formerly belonging to the Brier Creek Association, are wrongfully charged in this letter as being a rent off party for we conceive that they were driven off on account of their missionary and temperance principles, and have done nothing more than God and His truth requires of them.

Therefore, if the brethren of the Brier Creek Association are desirous of a reconciliation with us, the way is already open. Adopt our Constitution, acknowledge their error, and we are together without the trouble of calling so large a Convention.

The Missions Board made the following classifications:

1. Z. B. Adams and A. Robey
2. S. P. Smith and Peter Grimes
3. R. L. Steele and J. B. Green
4. R. Gentry and William Martin
5. William Church and H. M. Stokes
6. S. Ferguson and Medlock
7. J. H. West and I. Oxford

These ministers were to travel together one month each between October 1855 and April 1856. At the Asso-

ciational meetings 1856 they made this report:

Isaac Oxford traveled fourteen days, 146 miles, preached thirteen sermons, started one Sunday School, collected \$4.13; Richard Gentry, thirty-five days, 400 miles, twenty-three sermons; William Martin, twenty-three days, 288 miles, eighteen sermons; Peter Grimes, fourteen days, 179 miles, thirteen sermons; Z. B. Adams was appointed missionary for the next year at \$25.00 per month.

A collection of \$30.00 was taken for missions and \$190.00 was subscribed for the United Baptist Institute at Taylorsville. This resolution was passed: Resolve, we believe that it is the duty as well as a privilege of all Christians to contribute to the cause of missions, therefore, we recommend that each church give 10¢ to Home Missions and 5¢ to Foreign Missions for each member.

In 1856 the contribution was: \$17.93 for Home Missions and \$8.65 for Foreign Missions. This was only about one-half of what had been suggested, but twice the amount the year before.

In 1857 messages were received from the Brier Creek and Lower Creek Associations and the following resolution passed:

That we appoint Smith Ferguson, James Reid and Issac Oxford to attend the next session of the Lower Creek Association, and propose a correspondence with them. That we advise where divisions have hitherto existed between the Lewis Fork, Brier Creek, Lower Creek, and Three Fork Associations and the Taylorsville Association, to use all necessary means to adjust such difficulties, and become one body.

Smith Ferguson, J. H. Foote, and A. H. Martin attended the Lewis Fork Association in 1858, asking to take up friendly correspondence. A resolution was passed:

That we receive the correspondence from our sister association, and that we mutually agree to forgive all



past offences, and now unite as Baptist in promoting the great truths of the Gospel. Also, that where divisions have heretofore existed between the Taylorsville Association and the Lewis Fork Association to use all necessary means to adjust said differences and become one body.

In 1859 the Taylorsville Association proposed for each of the Taylorsville, Lewis Fork, and Lower Creek Associations to send delegates to a Convention for the purpose of uniting the three into one association.

The proposed Convention met Friday, November 11, 1859, at Zion Hill Church, Boomer, Wilkes County. Elder Smith Ferguson was elected Moderator and Peter Eller, Secretary. These churches represented Lewis Fork Association; Little River, Beaver Creek, Pleasant Hill, Zion Hill Three Forks, Macedonia, New Hope, Walnut Grove, and Mt. Zion. Union, Antioch, Dover, and King's Creek represented Lower Creek, while Fishing Creek, Taylor Springs, Mt. Gilead, Taylorsville, Liberty Grove, Pleasant Grove, Bethel, Concord, Oak Forest, Center, and Mt. Airy were from Taylorsville Association.

A committee of two from each association was appointed to draw up a Constitution: Richard Gentry, James Reid, William Pool, J. G. Bryan, E. Tilly, and J. H. West. The moderator and clerk were added to the committee. On Saturday the committee presented the Constitution which was considered section by section and adopted, as was the Rules of Decorum and Abstracts of Principles.

The Taylorsville representatives got the article which had been their theme all through its history, Namely:

This association shall withdraw fellowship from any church which holds members in fellowship who distil, sell, or use liquors as a beverage.

Thus was formed the United Baptist Association on the principles of Missions and Temperance.

# THE UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The first session of the United Baptist Association was held with Lewis Fork Church, Wilkes County October 18-20, 1860. Smith Ferguson was elected Moderator and Peter Eller, Clerk. There were 26 churches. Those from Alexander were:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>DELEGATES</u>	<u>BAPTISMS</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Antioch	D.V. Brown W.S. Pool	6	81	S. Ferguson
Concord	S. Danner D.W. Levan	6	55	R.L. Steele
Center	J. Reed	5	31	J. Reed
Dover	H. Holsclaw E. Pennell		84	J.H. Brown
Liberty Grove	R.L. Steele J. Palmer D.L. Hudson	20	56	J. Reed
Little River	Wm. Pool P. Tritt A.L. Williams	3	97	W. Pool P. Tritt
Macedonia	F. Ingram	1	128	J. Crouch
Mt. Gilead	J. W. Austin S. N. Hines	11	38	J. Crouch
Taylorsville	S. Ferguson C. Jones E. C. Harrington		37	S. Ferguson
Three Forks	J. Crouch R. Watts	6	81	S. Ferguson

Corresponding messengers were received from Three Forks, Lebanon, Yadkin, Roan Mountain and Jefferson Associations and messengers appointed to the same. The Taylorsville Record Book was adopted for this association. The clerk was instructed to take charge of the Lewis Fork Record Book. The United Baptist Association approved appointment of the Western Convention of S. P. Smith to ride in Burke County and Smith Ferguson in the bounds of this association as missionaries for one year. The Baptist books and money on hand were placed in the hands of the treasurer, with instructions to have the books distributed among the ministers to sell; and all money received laid out for more Baptist Books, and books placed in the hands of S. Ferguson and James McNeil for them to sell. The treasurer was instructed to pay all money received for Home and Foreign Missions to Elder S. P. Smith and take his receipt.

The Sunday School committee reported some churches having Sunday School, but regreted that more were not. They recommended that every church have a Sunday School and that all parents take their children to same. Improvement was noted in the Biblical Recorder and it was heartily recommended to every Baptist home, also recommended was the Home and Foreign Missions Journal.

The second session was with Concord Church, Alexander County, October 18-20, 1861. Richard Gentry was elected Moderator and P. Eller reelected clerk. Dudley Shoals and Sardis Churches of Caldwell County were received. A special prayer meeting was called to invoke God's blessings on our country so distressed by the Civil War. The session took up a letter from Union Church asking that a committee visit them to settle a difficulty. The association withdrew fellowship from Liberty Grove for alleged reason that she was holding a drunkard in fellowship. The letter and money were refunded.

(1) Other items of Associational business were: appointment of J. McNeil and I. Oxford as missionaries for the association as long as they can procure means to pay them for their services. (2) The treasurer was ordered to pay J. McNeil, our missionary last year, the \$4.70 from Oak Grove Church.



(3) R. Gentry and A. Allen paid McNeil one dollar each.  
(4) A collection was taken on Sunday to send the word of God to North Carolina soldiers. The collection amounted to \$13.23.

In 1862 seventeen churches were represented. The representatives took up a letter from Liberty Grove Church, and she was restored. S. P. Smith requested the association to bear with Fishing Creek Church on eyear inasmuch as she failed to represent herself at the session. This was granted.

Friday at 9:00 A.M. Rev. F. A. Belcher implored Divine blessings for His mercies in behalf of the Confederate Government and success for our army. S. M. Collis implored God to hasten the day when the distress of our country shall come to an end, and peace be restored to our troubled land. This was Civil War time.

The session took up a letter from Little River asking for dismissal, it being ascertained that said church was holding members who engaged in distilling ardent spirits (alcohol). The association withdrew fellowship from said church. The session adjourned until the next day at 9:00 A.M. to spend half an hour at the Throne of Grace in behalf of our distressed country.

The Committee reported that they had visited Union Church as appointed and the church had no business to discuss.

## ON STATE OF CHURCHES ON TEMPERANCE

The committee to whom was referred the investigation of the standing of the churches on temperance reported that there was evidence that the following churches were more or less guilty in violation of the constitution in regard to alcohol: Lewis Fork, Beaver Creek, Kings Creek, Taylor Springs, Mt. Gilead, Taylorsville, Three Forks, Liberty Grove, Mt. Zion and Dover.

The following action was taken:

Taylor Springs and Kings Creek were given one year to deal with any member in violation.

Taylorsville was passed over, the pastor promising to investigate the matter.

The association withdrew fellowship from Three Forks and Union.

A year's indulgence was granted Mt. Gilead and Mt. Zion.

Liberty Grove, Dover, Lewis Fork and Beaver Creek were passed over as innocent.

In other business a collection of \$200.00 was taken for the United Baptist Institute.

Also it was voted to employ a missionary at \$1.50 each day he rides, and he is authorized to collect his own salary from the churches.

In 1863 the association met with Liberty Grove four miles northwest of Taylorsville. Smith Ferguson was elected Moderator and Robert Steele, Clerk.

Mt. Zion, Walnut Grove, Beaver Creek, Lewis Fork, Pilgrim, Antioch and Macedonia were stricken from the roll, they having joined in the reorganization of the Lewis Fork Association.

The association took under consideration the churches which had asked a year's indulgence. Taylor Springs and Taylorsville satisfied the association of their innocence. Fellowship was withdrawn from Kings Creek.

## REPORT ON THE CASE OF FISHING CREEK CHURCH

The committee reported: We think it consistent with justice and our former practice to give Fishing Creek Church clemency for one year to purge herself of liquor dealers, manufacturers, etc., and we advise the church to reconsider her act of excluding two brethren and recommend the association send a committee to help settle their difficulty.

Isaac Oxford, Chairman

The association appointed James McNeil missionary to ride in the bounds of the association for twelve months and pay him \$800.00, or in proportion for what time he rides.

## PLEDGES

Isaac Oxford . . . .	\$10.00	J. Reed . . .	\$15.00
J. H. West . . . . .	10.00	J. B. Green . .	20.00
B. Watts . . . . .	10.00	R. L. Steele ..	10.00
R. H. Moody . . . . .	10.00	E. A. Poe . . .	10.00

The association took a collection of \$20.00 for Foreign Missions and \$117.75 for army missions.

RESOLUTIONS: Whereas, we believe the true Bible doctrine of Temperance forbids the manufacturing, vending and, use of ardent spirits (alcohol) as a beverage therefore resolve, That we as an association will not hold in fellowship any church that retains members that make, sell or use such. Secondly, That we will not knowingly correspond with any association that does not live up to, the spirit of this resolution.

Whereas, we have heard with pleasure of the school at Taylorsville under the charge of F. A. Belcher, Principal and William Blunt, Assistant, we therefore, Resolve, that we will cooperate with the faculty and trustees in promoting the interest of the same, and will recommend it to the patronage of the brethern in general.

Resolve, That we recommend that the churches hold monthly prayer meetings for our soldiers. The Civil War was still going on.

Resolve, That we recommend the churches hold regular ministers and deacons meetings Friday before the fifth Sunday in any month that has five Sundays.

Resolve, That it is inconsistent for ministers of the United Baptist Association to take pastoral care of any of those churches which have left us on account of our temperance principle. We advise church members not to sell their fruit to distillers to make brandy, as it can be converted to better use.

In 1864 Ferguson and Eller were reelected at New Hope, Wilkes County. Bethel of Ashe County reported, after being absent last year, making ten churches. Rev. Robert Steele was appointed to write a circular letter, and have it published in the Biblical Recorder. The matter of Fishing Creek was discussed and the association withdrew from her. The association then advised Brethren H.

Curtis and Harvey Pennell and others who had been excluded from Fishing Creek to join any church of their choice or to constitute a church upon the principles of this association and the New Testament.

Brethern S. Trivett, James McNeil and James Reed were appointed to ride in the different sections of the association as missionaries who are to depend on their field of labor for support. As for Sunday School, we rejoice to report that there are some very well attended Sunday Schools. In all churches where such have been well attended, God has given His sanction by an out-pouring of His Holy Spirit.

Sulphur Springs of Alexander and Lower Creek of Caldwell were received in 1868, and Buffalo of Ashe in 1869.

Distinguished guests in 1869 were: Professor J. T. Deans of the United Baptist Institute, J. H. Mills, Editor of the Biblical Recorder, Elder W. T. Walters, Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, Dr. Wingate, President of Wake Forest College.

To the Lewis Fork Association the following was written: We are ready to correspond on the terms agreed upon in the Convention at Three Forks,

In 1871 William Pool reported for the Education Committee recommending Baptist Institute and Wake Forest College. He called attention to needed repairs on the school at Taylorsville and equipment needed, stating that the school had been sadly neglected, and appealing to sister associations to support the institution also. A collection of \$32.25 was taken and support pledged. A resolution was passed and sent to the Lewis Fork Association proposing a union of the two associations.

The Lweis Fork Association agreed to the proposal of uniting into one association and called a meeting at Three Forks Church, Taylorsville, N.C., November 24-25, 1871. William Pool was called to the chair for the meeting. The new association was to be called the Brushy Mountain Baptist Association. Antioch, Center, Concord, Little River, Macedonia, Mount Olive, Pilgrim, Pleasant Hill, Sulphur Springs, Taylorsville and Three Forks of Alexander County and ten others, mostly from Wilkes County, were represented. A constitution was adopted. The first meeting was set for Sulphur Springs Church

August 15-17, 1872.

It will be noted that the Taylorsville Association was formed on the principles of Temperance and Missions and that the United Baptist Association stuck to these same principles. Temperance was a bone of contention in many places. Too many churches turned their heads and overlooked this evil. In one church one of the most prominent members was charged with giving short measure of whiskey by another member. The matter was settled, but nothing was said about selling or using the whisky. Even one pastor in Yadkin Association was continually in trouble because of excessive drinking. Different churches dismissed him from their pulpit.

Leaders of the Taylorsville and later the United Association such as Smith Ferguson, Isaac Oxford, Robert Steele and others would not compromise, but held out for their high principles in the union with the Lewis Fork Association, winning them back to the same principles of Temperance and Missions in the Brushy Mountain Association.

## BRUSHY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION

The Brushy Mountain Association held the first meeting with Sulphur Springs Church two miles north of Hidenite, Alexander County, August 15-17, 1872. William Pool, Moderator of the Convention at Three Forks for the purpose of forming an association, called the meeting to order by song and prayer. Letters were received from twenty-seven churches. Elder Robert Steele was elected Moderator and Elder G. D. Sherrill, Clerk. Visitors and ministers were welcomed, including J. H. Mills, Editor of the Biblical Recorder.

The constitution adopted at Three Forks was read and adopted. The By-Laws of the Lewis Fork Association were adopted. The Record Book of the United Association was received as the Record Book of this body. The treasurer of the United Association reported \$21.50. Four dollars was allowed the clerk, the remainder for postage and printing. The treasurer of Lewis Fork had died so his



report was not in hand. It was referred to the next session.

Elder Isaac Oxford reported: Temperance is the proper use of things lawful and total abstinence of things unlawful. Intemperance is the abuse of things lawful, and the use of things unlawful.

The Church Extension Society was formed to help build churches in destitute places. All churches were urged to contribute to this cause.

Sunday Schools were urged in all neighborhoods. "If any church cannot find men to take hold of this work, we advise sisters to organize and carry on schools in churches, school houses or homes."

William Pool  
Chairman of Committee

Report on districting: "We recommend that the association divide into two districts. That all churches north of the Brushy Mountains be District No. 1, and those south of said mountains be District No. 2."

E. C. Harrington  
Chairman of Committee

Dr. W. M. Wingate, President of Wake Forest College, preached the introductory sermon in 1873. Robert Steele was reelected Moderator and James B. Pool, Clerk. Corresponding brethren and transient ministers were welcomed and messengers were appointed to other associations: Brier Creek, Catawba River, Yadkin, Three Forks and New River.

The sale of the United Baptist Institute was proposed and the association voted 30 to 12 for the sale. The money was to be used to build a school in a more desirable location.

It was announced that Brother Mills was leaving the Biblical Recorder to become Superintendent of the Masonic Orphanage being started at Oxford, which was the first orphanage in North Carolina. The committee on periodicals expressed their appreciation for a fine job and regrets his leaving, but the committee also expressed

faith in Rev. A. F. Reed, the new editor, and Brother James B. Green, one of our own, who will work with Brother Reed.

Brother I. W. Thomas reported a very fine State Convention in 1874, as did the messengers to the sister associations. Messengers to the State Convention and other associations were appointed. This became regular practice. A committee was appointed to consider employing an Associational Missionary. Elders J. B. Green, D. Welborne and Brothers E. C. Harrington, A. Childers and J. W. Gibbs were appointed to settle a matter at Little River Church. A large audience attended preaching services on Sunday, hearing three sermons. A collection of \$22.53 was taken for Foreign Missions, and \$14.20 for Sunday School.

The United Baptist Institute had fallen into bad circumstance during the war and reconstruction. The school had been languishing for the last nine years. Different teachers were trying to succeed with it but without much success. Last year the Association voted to sell it, but the Trustees now make an appeal for support to keep it. The Pe-Do Baptist and Presbyterians had tried to buy it but the Trustees refused to sell, hoping for better days. Such sign was now in sight. Under Principal W. T. Davis and Assistant William Blunt, the school was beginning to show new life, but needed help from the Baptist of the state and especially from this association. A strong appeal was made. "Will you sustain it for our denomination, or let another succeed where we have failed? Will you keep the property and not use it for the good of all, but especially for our own young people who are seeking an education to better themselves and in turn better this section of the state?"

Letters were read from twenty-five churches in 1875. Mt. Pleasant Church of Wilkes County was received with James McNeil serving as pastor. It was urged that all brethren who could, attend the meetings of our sister associations. The executive Committee reported \$10.00 in hand, which was ordered paid to Rev. R. H. Moody, Missionary. The report on Finance showed \$34.58 received from churches and \$82.00 on hand last year.

Fifteen Sunday Schools reported with ninety-one officers and teachers and 488 students. The church at

Taylorsville reported using the Uniform Lesson system with success.

At the last session, several churches pledged \$10.00 each to the United Baptist Institute: "This is the report to date: Antioch paid \$5.00, Bethel \$10.00, Sulphur Springs \$10.00, Three Forks \$5.00, Elder I. W. Thomas \$2.00. There has been some work done and all churches that have not paid their pledge, and those that did not pledge are urged to use all their energy to raise funds sufficient to repair the building. There were 58 in attendance last year and it is believed that number will be greatly increased this year." The resolutions passed showed the interest of the time.

Resolve: That this association endorse the Great Centennial on the Fourth of July 1876, and that each church ask every member, so far as possible, to contribute \$1.00 to the United Baptist Institute as a gift to God for His blessings on our denomination, and that we require all ministers to present this claim to the churches.

The 1876 session was opened with "How Did My Heart Rejoice To Hear" as was the last session. Twenty-seven churches reported. Center in Alexander County having been dissolved when the building burned. Concord was not represented. W. A. Pool brought a strong appeal for education in all fields, mentioning the Southern Seminary, and the three schools for girls at: Thomasville, Raleigh and Murfreesboro. It was regreted that more young people did not attend them. The session appointed William Pool, James Kerley and J. P. Gwaltney to attend delinquent churches and report next session. Four Union meetings were appointed at: Lewis Fork, first Sunday in November; Bethel, Friday before second Sunday in April; Little River, Friday before first Sunday in May; Taylorsville, Friday before third Sunday in August. Three or four ministers were assigned to each meeting.

"How Did My Heart Rejoice To Hear" was sung for the third straight year in 1877. Dover and Poplar Springs of Alexander County and Little Rock of Caldwell were received. They elected Moderator, R. L. Steele, to the State Convention and raised money to pay his expense. Nine Sunday



Schools were reported.

A Query came from Zion Hill Church: Is it right to hold a member who will not pay his debts? Answer: If a member can and will not pay his debts, he should be excluded.

The treasurer reported \$3.18 on hand and \$37.00 was collected.

G. W. Greene, C. C. Pool, and W. C. Meadows were appointed to arrange time and place for a Sunday School Convention in 1878. Collected \$12.84 on Saturday for Foreign Missions, and on Sunday \$13.55 for State Missions. A committee was appointed to secure a missionary and to select places to hold preaching and collect funds.

The following was a memorial in the 1878 minutes to Elder Smith Ferguson.

Among the leading ministers of the early Baptists in Alexander and neighboring territory was Smith Ferguson. He was born and lived in Wilkes County but led in the promotion of Baptist life in Alexander and adjoining counties. Isaac Oxford and J. B. Pool, Committee on Obituaries, published in the Minutes of the Brushy Mountain Association of 1878, state that a complete biography of this great man would embrace the history of the Baptist denomination for a half century in western North Carolina.

Elder Ferguson was born in the Kings Creek section of Wilkes County March 8, 1791, to James and Sarah Ferguson and died March 12, 1878, at the age of 87. He served in the war of 1812 for which he drew a pension for life. He had made a profession of faith and joined Kings Creek Church before entering the service of his country. He was ordained a minister May 27, 1825. There never was a stain on his ministry or Christian character in his 53 years of service of his Lord. He helped build churches in destitute places and was an inspiration and counselor to young preachers.

For twenty-one years Elder Ferguson was pastor of Little River Church, Alexander County, but was one of those dismissed from the church over the Temperance question in 1851. He was a total abstainer and preached it. During his ministry at Little River, nine or ten minis-

ters were ordained. On being dismissed, Ferguson led a group to Taylorsville and organized that church, became its pastor and served for ten years there.

Elder Ferguson was Moderator of the Lewis Fork Association for fifteen years, and led in the formation of the Taylorsville Association in 1852. He served as its moderator for the life of this association except one year because of illness. He was the instrument in bringing the Taylorsville and Lewis Fork Associations together as the United Association in 1859, was elected its Moderator and served four more terms. We do not have the records of 1865-67. He also led in forming the Brushy Mountain Association in 1872.

Smith Ferguson was recognized as an outstanding preacher wherever he was heard. This is quite evident by the almost constant preaching at the Associational meetings in his own and other associations as well as at the Western Baptist Convention.

Query from Union Church 1878: Has a female member of a church any right to vote in church business? Answer The churches are free to act as they think proper as to who votes.

Letters from thirty-one churches were read in 1881. Love Lady was not present. Mount Carmel and Friendship of Wilkes County were received. A collection was taken to erect a monument to Elder Smith Ferguson and D. W. Presnell, T. C. Sherrill and J. B. Pool were appointed to superintend the same. Rev. Ferguson was buried at Dudley Shoals in Caldwell County. A Sunday School Convention was held at Mt. Pleasant the second Sunday in April. Oak Forest was dismissed to join the Brier Creek Association. Resolve: A resolution was passed that the pastors of this association take an offering for Foreign Missions at their November meeting. Brother J. S. Gwaltney of the Southern Division had traveled from the first of May until August 25. He had covered 350 miles, preached twenty sermons, visited thirty-five families, and held twenty-two prayer meetings. "He had been requested to extend his field of service and thinks that soon this destitute portion of our association will be ripe for Baptists." This was Lutheran territory along the Catawba River.

Query: Is it right for a man charged with adultery to keep the woman in his own house and be retained in fellowship? Answer: No. Query: Is it right for a layman or deacon to hold prayer meeting? Answer: Yes. Query: Is it right to hold a member who drinks too much liquor, hands it out to his friends, offers it to brothers of the church and claims it is right to drink whatsoever the soul lusteth after? Answer: No.

W. J. Bumgarner, missionary in Southern Division, reported he began traveling the first of February 1882, and had continued until August. He traveled 500 miles, preached thirty-three sermons, visited and held prayer meetings with sixty-seven families, made several Sunday School talks, had preached monthly at two stations and expected to hold protracted meetings at these soon. He had received \$27.75 from the state board, \$4.15 from Mt. Olive Church, \$14.28 from the association and \$175 from the little Sunday Schools. The Devotion Committee called a mass Sunday School meeting for Sabbath morning at 10:00.

R. A. Spainhour was reelected Moderator and W. E. White, Clerk, in 1883. Honorable J. G. Scarborough, Superintendent of Public Schools, spoke on the subject of General Education. W. J. Bumgarner reported giving half of his time to missions, preaching regularly at Bethlehem. He began work at Concord in February and preached there during the summer. He preached eighty sermons in all and sold fifty-four song books.

Query from Zion Hill Church: How long shall a church bear with a member who can go to all public places and neglect their church meetings? Answer: Such members should be admonished, and if still offending, they should be placed under censure. The fellowship of the church should be withdrawn from continued offenders. Report of treasurer: Foreign Missions \$34.84, State Missions \$16.36, Association \$14.28, Sabbath School \$6.50, Smith Ferguson's tomb \$1.10, totaling \$72.28. Money on hand last year \$5.34, from Finance Committee \$34.38. Paid for printing minutes \$30.15, Clerk's fee \$6.00, postage \$3.66, totaling \$39.81. The Sunday School cause has made cheering progress. A gracious revival at Antioch noted thirty baptisms, of which three-

fourths were from the Sunday School. The Sunday School held a mass meeting at 9:00 on Sunday of the Session.

Delegates from Lebanon presented a letter in 1884. It was referred to the committee who reported that the church was sound in doctrine and it was received. The hand of fellowship was extended to A. M. Bumgarner, Jacob Crouch, and S. D. Barnes, Pastor. Dr. W. L. Poteat of Wake Forest College spoke to the Education report. On the third day, Dr. Poteat conducted prayer meeting.

Query from Sardis Church: What is the duty of a church toward a member who becomes a fornicator or fornicatress? Answer: Withdraw fellowship. Query: If they marry does this make atonement? Answer: No.

#### MEMORIAL TO ROBERT L. STEELE 1884

*L. May 31, 1888 - d. Sept. 19, 1883*

Robert Luckey Steele served the Taylorsville Association as Clerk from 1856 until the association joined with Lewis Fork to become the United Association in 1859. Here he was elected clerk in 1863, and moderator in 1868 or before, serving until it became the Brushy Mountain Association in 1872. This association elected him moderator each year through 1878, when he became infirmed in body and was not able to carry the load. He died in 1883. *d. 9-19-1883*

In the obituaries of 1884, L. P. Gwaltney praises him as a brother beloved by all. "He was pure in life, modest in his deportment, always disposed to prefer others to himself. He had been a member of a Baptist church for forty-five years and a minister for thirty-six. By hard study of the Scriptures he became a workman approved of God, whose works do follow him."

During the Civil War, Robert Steele with J. G. Bryan and James Reed organized a volunteer company and served well. Alexander County is reputed to have sent more men into service of the south than any section of like size and population in the whole country.

Piney Grove, Lower Creek, Sardis, Love Lady and Union were dismissed to form the Caldwell Association in 1885. A

resolution was passed: Resolve, That we remind the churches of the Scripture plan of giving as found in Corinthians 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him, that there shall be no gathering when I come."

Query from Pilgrim Church: When a church grants a letter of dismissal to a member who is licensed to preach and he carries it in his pocket, marries then leaves his wife, goes to another state and marries again, then after being exposed leaves his second wife, shall not the church which granted the letter withdraw fellowship?

Answer: Drop his name at once.

W. A. Pool called attention to a debt of less than \$100.00 against the United Baptist Institute which had been reduced to a judgment, the property being worth \$1,000-\$2,000. The association resolved, that the Trustees take steps at once to raise the money and pay off the debt.

In this year, 1885, the Baptist State Convention established the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville. They secured J. H. Mills from the Masonic Orphanage at Oxford to head this. This was the second orphanage in the state.

W. A. Pool reported that the Baptist Orphanage Association has been formed to support the new orphanage with about 800 members contributing one dollar each. He reported many more members were needed. About 300 acres had been bought at Thomasville and four buildings erected. On July 28, 1886, the cornerstones for four more buildings were laid. These eight would accommodate 84 children. Thus the Baptists of North Carolina had launched out on a mission of love and compassion, and the Brushy Mountain Association was urged to do their best to support it.

In 1885 letters were granted as requested to: Bethel, Buffalo and Friendship to go into a new association, and to Dudley Shoals to join Caldwell.

Moravian Falls Church recently organized was received in 1887. The delegates: A. C. McRary, F. J. Alexander and J. F. Spainhour and pastor, G. W. Greene, were welcomed. Kings Creek was granted a letter to join the Caldwell Association.

All the churches of Alexander County were dismissed



to form a new association. This became the Alexander Baptist Association immediately.

## THE SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS

In his book by this name, William Ernest (Bud) Linney tells of this school and the three ministers who started and conducted it, namely: Leroy Parks Gwaltney, Jay P. Gwaltney, and Daniel Wilson Pool. Parks and Jay Gwaltney were cousins. Jay was the grandfather of Dr. Howard Ford, director of associational missions of N. C. Baptist State Convention until retiring in 1978.

Not many years after the Civil war these three preachers, all living in the Linneys Grove community, decided that they would meet one day each week to study and discuss the Bible and preaching. They secured what help they could and began a systematic study. They would select a book of the Bible and complete it, then take up another.

These brethren were encouraged by each other's presence and interest. Thus, they laid a foundation deep and broad, and built upon it such knowledge of the Bible as few men of that day possessed.

At first, they met at Linneys Grove Church where they were joined by William E. Linney in 1906 and by W. Jeffie Bumgarner and others as time went on. Later they moved to Pilgrim as it was more convenient for some of the group.

Rev. Linney says, "These men lived above the clouds where eternal sunshine illumines the vision of those who walk on the King's Highway." I personally knew the three and have heard them preach; so I know where of he speaks. Uncle Jay Gwaltney was the one who spoke to me about my relationship to Christ, as I drove him to the revival service in a buggy. Parks Gwaltney was my pastor from age two to seventeen.

These ministers had a pledge to pray for each other by name each Sunday at 11:00 A.M. as they went into the pulpit. This pledge was carried out as long as they

preached. There were seven ministers who attended regularly until Daniel Poole moved to Stony Point and Parks Gwaltney to Taylorsville in the late teens.

Rev. Gwaltney, W. J. and Ernest Bumgarner, J. W. and Atwell Watts and others continued to meet at Taylorsville until Gwaltney's death in 1925. The others continued for several years longer. Heaven alone can tell the good that came from this School of the Prophets. Every Baptist should read this account of these prophets and their sacrificial service to their Lord and fellowmen. This book can be found in the Alexander County Library and in the Alexander Association Office.

## ALEXANDER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Alexander Baptist Association was organized September 30, 1887, at Macedonia Church two miles south of Taylorsville. W. S. McLeod, Moderator of the preliminary convention at Three Forks, called the delegates to order and read the 90th Psalm, followed by the singing of the hymn "How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds." and prayer by J. R. Teague. W. E. White, acting clerk, read the proceedings of the preliminary meeting, with records of dismissal of the churches there represented from Brushy Mountain and Brier Creek Associations. Churches and pastors forming the new association were Antioch, L. P. Gwaltney; Bethel, W. A. Myers; Concord, W. J. Bumgarner; Dover, S. D. Barnes; Lebanon, J. B. Pool; Little River, J. B. Pool; Macedonia, J. B. Pool, Mount Olive, W. J. Bumgarner; Pilgrim, D. W. Pool, Pleasant Hill, C. C. Pool; Poplar Springs, J. B. Pool; Sulphur Springs, J. P. Gwaltney; Taylorsville, J. B. Marsh; Three Forks, L. P. Gwaltney.

Charity is listed in the statistics with W. W. Stafford, clerk and sixty members. J. W. Hendren was elected Moderator and W. E. White, Clerk.

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS WERE ADOPTED

Art. 1. This union shall be known as the Alexander Baptist Association.

Art. 4. This Association may advise the churches and recommend measures of usefulness, for their adoption, but cannot bind them in any way.

Art. 5. As constituent members of the association, the churches shall have the right to advise when desired, and to suggest plans of usefulness to be adopted.

Art. 7. The association may dissolve with any church that becomes heterodox in doctrine or disorderly in practice.

On motion, the clerk of the association was to have printed suitable blanks for clerks of the churches to make their reports, including statistics of both church and Sunday School.

J. M. Oxford  
E. S. Millsaps  
W. S. McLeod

The churches promised to raise the amount below to support W. J. Bumgarner as missionary: Antioch \$10.00, Bethel #10.00, Lebanon \$5.00, Little River \$5.00, Macedonia \$5.00, Mt. Olive \$5.00, Poplar Springs \$5.00, Sulphur Springs \$10.00, Three Forks \$10.00, J. C. Bell \$10.00, C. Mayberry and J. Hammer \$1.00 each.

It became the custom from the beginning to invite representatives from sister associations to join in the meetings and usually there were some. Reports were called for on the usual subjects of interest: Education, Duties to the Poor, Missions, Temperance, Finance, Sunday School, Church and Pastor Relationships, Church Letters, and Associational Missions.

In 1888 Superintendent J. H. Mills was present and spoke in behalf of the Thomasville Orphanage. Collection for the orphanage was \$8.97. One brother from each church was appointed to collect money and food for this institution. A committee was also appointed to arrange for shipping the food: J. C. Bell, W. A. Womble and W. P. Ingram.

L. P. Gwaltney urged churches to develop their whole



duty in supporting pastors.

Digest of Church Letters of 1888: Churches 15, members 1,851, Sunday Schools 10, average attendance 65, total in Sunday Schools 605.

The following committee was appointed to settle a difficulty at Macedinia Church: T. B. Campbell, W. M. Lackey, J. D. Mullace, E. B. Hendren, W. P. Echerd.

J. W. Hendren gave an address on Sunday School. The Foreign Missions collection was \$7.26.

The Bethlehem Church, with W. J. Bumgarner, Pastor, W. G. Fox, Clerk, and V. W. Teague and Robert Barahill, delegates, presented a letter requesting admission and was accepted into fellowship in 1889.

Ten dollars was received for subscriptions to Charity and Children, and contributions to the orphanage amounted to \$4.85. A representative from each church was also appointed to raise money and goods for that institution. Contributions are to be delivered to Taylorsville by November 25 to the following committee: J. C. Bell, W.P. Ingram and E. C. Sloan.

L. P. Gwaltney spoke on missions. The association promised \$25.00 for Foreign Missions.

Church Letter of 1889: 15 churches, 79 baptisms, by letter 41, restored 13, dismissed by letter 50, excluded 20, died 15, total membership 1,905. Associational Missions \$38.36, Foreign Missions \$13.73, Home Missions \$4.50.

Query from Antioch Church: Should a church member be allowed to participate in games of amusement where money is taken gambling? Answer: No.

Elder J. P. Gwaltney reported attending the N. C. Baptist State Convention in 1890.

L. P. Gwaltney was elected moderator and the other officers reelected in 1891.

Five dollars was collected for Charity and Children. The Orphanage committee was continued.

Query from Taylorsville Church: Is church discipline necessary? Answer: Yes. Query: If so, when? Answer: Whenever an error is committed. Query: Is not church discipline essentially necessary for the peace, growth and prosperity of our church as Baptist people? Answer: Yes.

Church Letter for 1891: Baptisms 90, restored 9, by letter 27, dismissed by letter 38, excluded 36, died 23, total males 697, females 1,203, total 1,900. Collections for missions amounted to \$10.23. Agreed to try to raise \$50.00 for State Missions, \$50.00 for Foreign Missions and \$25.00 for Home Missions.

A Sunday School meeting was conducted by James Shaver, W. J. Bumgarner, Isaac Oxford and W. E. White, as part of the session.

In 1890 the association agreed to pay \$100.00 on the salary of G. W. Greene, our missionary to China. A resolution was passed to advise the churches to withdraw fellowship from every member who aids in any way in the making of ardent spirits (alcohol).

Church Letter 1891: Churches 15, 88 baptisms, by letter 38, excluded 23, died 15, total 2,018. Pastor's salary \$394.81, State Missions \$32.12, Foreign Missions \$4.95. In Sunday School 495.

Fifteen churches reported 146 baptisms in 1892. Received by letter 55, restored 18, dismissed by letter 53, excluded 21, died 19, total membership 2,145 an increase of 127 over last year. Pastor's salaries have gone up to \$520.05 from all churches in the association reporting.

Churches excluded members in those days. Men mainly for making, selling or drinking liquor, women for gossiping.

The importance of education was stressed, in the 1892 meeting and our fine schools were recommended: Wake Forest College; high schools at Vashti and Hiddenite and the Taylorsville Collegiate Institute under the direction of the association. To get better support for the Taylorsville school, a committee consisting of one representative from each church was suggested. It was also suggested that an agent be appointed to visit the churches and present the claim of said school.

The committee on Church Pastor Relations suggested that a pastor cannot make a charge of his preaching, hence, the deacons should be aroused to their duty on this line.

It was recommended concerning temperance that if a member engage in the manufacturing, sale or use of

ardent spirits and the church having made an earnest effort to reclaim him from such evil and if that failed, then she should withdraw fellowship from him. (II Thess: 3:6)

William E. White, Chairman, and J. L. Gwaltney, Secretary-Treasurer of the Taylorsville Collegiate Institute reported that the institution needed an estimated amount of \$241.00 for repairs and equipment, plus \$88.03 already paid out by E. C. Sloan and J. L. Gwaltney. One man from each church was appointed to assist Trustees in raising funds: Antioch, J. F. Moose, Bethel, J. E. Gilreath; Concord, T. A. Hudson, Lebanon, A. A. Bumgarner; Dover, M. S. Pennell; Macedonia, H. Christopher; Mt. Olive, B.S. Kerley; Little River, W. Laws; Pilgrim, J. D. Mayberry; Pleasant Hill, S. J. Harrington; Sulphur Springs, W. P. Ingram; Taylorsville, H. Meadows, Three Forks, J. M. Jones; Poplar Springs; J. F. Robinette; Bethlehem, J.A. Downs, and association at large, J. A. White, president of the school.

W. E. White was elected Moderator in 1893, T. A. Hudson, Clerk; J. C. Bell, Treasurer; J. B. Pool, Historian.

Fifteen churches reported in 1893: Antioch, D. W. Pool, Pastor; Bethel, C. C. Pool; Bethlehem, J. M. Shaver; Concord, W. J. Bumgarner; Dover, S. D. Barnes; Lebanon, W. J. Bumgarner; Little River, C. C. Pool; Macedonia, J. A. White; Mt. Olive, W. J. Bumgarner; Pilgrim, J. G. Wetherman; Pleasant Hill, W. J. Bumgarner; Poplar Springs; Sulphur Springs, L. P. Gwaltney; Taylorsville, J. A. White; Three Forks, D. W. Pool.

On motion by C. C. Pool: (1) That the churches of the Alexander Association be recommended to contribute to Brother W. E. Crocker, our Foreign Missionary, and that Elder J. B. Pool be appointed to receive and forward all funds for that object to Brother Bostic of Asheville, North Carolina, free of charge.

(2) That all money in hand for Foreign Missions be appropriated to Brother Crocker. Also, that a brother in each church be appointed to collect money from his church for the support of Brother Crocker and forward them quarterly to Brother J. B. Pool, Taylorsville, N.C.

(3) That each church be requested to take one

collection during the year for the benefit of Elder J.M. Shaver in consideration of the work he is doing in preaching to the destitute within the bounds of this association. (associational missions)

(4) Also one collection annually for the work of Home Missions: Sunday School meetings have been held on each fifth Sunday.

On motion, funds for education from Taylorsville Church are to be paid to Taylorsville Baptist Collegiate Institute for repairs. Also, Elder J. A. White to visit churches in interest of this institution.

On Sunday religious exercises were conducted by D.W. Pool. The following reports were made on Periodicals: Perhaps there is nothing outside the Bible that has so much influence upon the family as the weekly visit of a good religious paper. These are recommended: The Biblical Recorder \$1.50, Charity and Children \$1.00, and N. C. Baptist \$1.00, and Missionary Helper at 50¢ per year.

On Education: "Let there be in every community a Baptist church and close by, a school house, and then for higher education our high schools. We rejoice that we are not one wit behind the most progressive in our high grade institutions. We have our Wake Forest as high as the highest, our great denominational college, and have scattered all over the state Baptist schools of high grade. In our midst we have the Taylorsville Collegiate Institute, the property and management of which is vested in the association."

J. A. White  
Chairman of Committee

There was a gain in church membership in 1893 of 111.

## THE MISSIONS REPORT OF 1893

In Foreign Missions, China is the field in which our people are taking most interest. In addition to the missionaries sustained by the Boards, we have seventeen missionaries in the interior of that dark land sustained directly by the churches. These, with all others, demand

our prayers and contributions.

The home work is chiefly in Cuba and among the American Indians. State and associational mission work is now blended into one. "Now brethren, it is certainly the duty and privilege of the churches to share the responsibility and burden of this glorious work." (III John 7 and 8)

J. P. Gwaltney  
Chairman of Committee

## EDUCATION REPORT

"The Taylorsville Collegiate Institute is in a prosperous condition and has made a high reputation under the present management of Prof. J. A. White. However, the building must have a new roof, and the Trustees have directed me to ask the churches for aid."

W. E. White  
Chairman Board of Trustees

Query by Elder L. P. Gwaltney: Will the association receive churches outside the county? Answer by W. E. White: "The Association will gladly welcome any church organization anywhere within the range of its influence to fellowship and cooperation in Christian work."

The Association commended the work of J. M. Shaver along the Catawba River in 1894. L. P. Gwaltney, W. J. Hopkins, D. W. Pool, C. C. Pool, J. M. Shaver and W. J. Bumgarner spoke on this subject.

Resolution by J. L. Gwaltney in 1894: That the school property at Taylorsville be leased to Prof. J. A. White for five years. Also, that this body petition the Legislature of North Carolina, through a committee, to charter our Collegiate Institute at Taylorsville. Both passed. Committee to form petition was: J. L. Gwaltney, W. J. Davis, J. W. Watts and W. E. White.

Baptisms reported in 1894 was 172, total members 2,062, total expense for all causes \$952.29, churches 15.

A motion was made by D. W. Pool to send all money on hand to Brother D. W. Harring in China.



At the 1895 session the committee which was appointed last session to petition the Legislature for charter for United Baptist Institute, reported that charter had been obtained as Taylorsville Collegiate Institute. A copy of which is submitted herewith.

Linney's Grove Church presented herself for membership and was unanimously accepted. "Elder J. P. Gwaltney, pastor."

A motion was made by W. E. White in 1896 for ministers to solicit contributions for the College at Taylorsville and to pay same over to J. L. Gwaltney, Secretary and Treasurer. The motion was adopted.

Church Letter 1896: 16 churches, 164 baptisms, 2,295 members. A gain of 93 over 1895. Church expenses \$824.-05, State Missions \$13.80, Home Missions \$2.00, Foreign Missions \$81.83, Ministerial Education (aid for ministerial students) \$14.51, Orphanage \$18.31.

The talk of the 1897 session among the ministers and laity was of the unusually gracious revivals in nearly every church in the association. Every church except Lebanon reported from two to twenty-one baptisms, Macedonia leading. Bethlehem and Poplar Springs had nineteen each.

Ten of the sixteen churches reported Sunday Schools.

Collection for Associational Missions divided between J. M. Shaver and O. W. Triplett.

Report of 1898 Finance: For Associational Minutes \$14.08, Home Missions \$3.65, Foreign Missions \$70.38, Total \$90.04.

Church Letters: 17 churches, baptisms 66, letters 34, restored 3, total 103, dismissed by letter 37, excluded 19, died 15, total 71. Members 2,284.

The Sunday School committee rejoiced in the report of so many churches in this work, and recommended it to all churches and pastors.

The Trustees reported the Taylorsville Collegiate Institute in a prosperous condition with 200 pupils and six graduates in the Literary Department, two in Business and one in Music. On Sunday, the importance of Sunday School was discussed by Elders W. F. Comer, J. M. Shaver and Brothers Wilson Watts and Maynard Beach.

Sister Blalock, wife of the missionary to China,



stimulated the mission spirit by her description of the benighted and downtrodden condition of the people especially of the women where she and Rev. Blalock have been laboring. Sister Blalock gave a separate talk to the women not being allowed to hear the Gospel except from another woman.

Island Ford in Iredell County was received into fellowship in 1899.

Elder L. P. Gwaltney discussed the object of an association:

An association as an advisory council finds a precedent in Acts 15 where a body composed of ministers and laymen met to settle the mooted question of circumcision in relation to Gentile churches. It is not a legislative body. The object of an association is for counsel, to promote unity, love, and good works along Scriptural lines and for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom in the hearts of men.

W. J. Bumgarner on Periodicals:

We need wholesome and informative literature in our homes that they may counteract the influence of the pernicious literature of our day and that our people may know of the opportunities for doing the Lord's will and service in the best possible way. (We need this today more than ever.)

It was reported that Thomasville Orphanage had 175 orphans and Miss Jennie Edwards, in an institution in Cuba, had twenty girls. All churches were urged to do all they can for these institutions this fall. A Motion was passed for pastors to take at least one collection to help Island Ford build a house of worship.

Taylor Springs Church, Iredell County, from Brier Creek Association handed in her letter from that Association and joined the Alexander association in 1900. L. M. Garrart serving as pastor, Buck Shoals, N. C.

Elder M. P. Matheny of the Southern Baptist Convention accepted a seat in the association.

The usual reports were given: Object of the Association: J. P. Gwaltney, W. J. Bumgarner, J. W. Watts; Education: L. P. Gwaltney; Periodicals, W. L. Bumgarner; Temperance: M. P. Matheny, D. W. Pool; Duty to Poor: J. H. Hendren, J. P. Gwaltney; Church and Pastor

Relations: O. A. Keller; Missions: J. M. Shaver, W.R. Childers; Taylorsville Collegiate Institute: W. E. White.  
Collection for Newell Baptist Church, Mecklenburg County of \$3.60 was taken.

# TREASURER'S REPORT 1900

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>
Three Forks . . . . .	\$ 4.06
Bethlehem . . . . .	1.97
Lebanon . . . . .	36.06
Mt. Olive . . . . .	2.65
Poplar Springs . . . . .	2.00
Pleasant Hill . . . . .	4.01
Bethel . . . . .	7.75
Sulphur Springs . . . . .	30.00
Macedonia . . . . .	7.00
Antioch . . . . .	9.80
Kings Creek (Caldwell) . . . . .	12.60
A . L. Watts . . . . .	5.00
J. W. Watts . . . . .	25.00
Total	<u>\$146.02</u>

Sent to T. L. Blalock in China \$50.00

Pleasant Grove Church, Iredell County, handed in letter from Brier Creek Association and was cordially received in 1901. Messengers were: E. S. Millsaps, J. J. Lavan and R. W. Grant. Visitors welcomed were: Elders O. L. Stringfield, secretary, Baptist Female University and C. E. Beaver, South Yadkin Association. At the request of Elder Stringfield, a committee was appointed to confer with him on Friday at 8:00. The committee consisted of: W. J. Bumgarner, L. P. Gwaltney, J. P. Gwaltney, O. A. Keller, A. M. Pennell, J.A. White, E. S. Millsaps, W. W. Teague and J. W. Watts. It seems that nothing came of this.

Church Letters of 1901: 19 churches, baptisms 62, by letter 22, restorations 4, total received 88, dismissed by letter 35, excluded 10, deaths 35, total membership 2,565. Seven churches reported pastor's salary \$355.60. Eight churches reported Sunday Schools

with 499 enrolled and an average of 292 in attendance. Lebanon had the largest enrollment of 88.

Elder C. C. Pool died during the year 1901. Memorial service as usual.

With the moderator absent, the clerk, T. A. Hudson, called the association to order in 1902.

Eighteen churches reported at this session and the following officers were elected: J. Walter Watts, Moderator; E. S. Millsaps, Clerk; W. J. Bumgarner, Treasurer; W. S. McLeod, Historian.

A call for new churches was extended and Damascus, Iredell County, of the Brier Creek Association, handed in her letter and was received. Messengers were: N. G. Sloan, C. Johnson and R. F. Sloan. J. P. Gwaltney served as pastor.

Correspondents reported: Elders W. J. Bumgarner, C. E. Beaver and Brother J. W. Watts attended Southern Baptist Convention. Elders J. P. Gwaltney and D. W. Pool attended the Brier Creek Association. Brother W. S. McLeod attended the Caldwell Association. All reported a pleasant time. Brother S. G. Stout of Brushy Mountain Association accepted a seat, also Brother S. S. Goforth, B. C. Rash and W. M. Goforth of Brier Creek and E. Mitchell of Yadkin.

A collection of \$4.48 was taken for Associational Missions in 1902.

Church Letters: 20 churches, received by experience 182, letter 21, restored 14, dismissed by letter 45, excluded 36, died 22, total members 2,647. State Missions \$15.50, Home Missions \$3.50, Gospel Missions \$141.31, Orphanage \$26.56. Five churches reported pastor's salaries totaling \$272.00. Twelve churches reported Sunday Schools.

A motion was passed in 1903 making the word "Mission" include all Missions. A resolution was offered by D.W. Pool and adopted: That we recommend that the churches of this association continue their contributions to Brother Blalock on the Gospel Mission plan. A collection was taken for the orphanage amounting to \$6.53.

Church Letters of 1903: 20 churches, baptisms 94, by letter 15, restorations 9, losses by letter 48, excluded 36, erasions 43, deaths 91 (this is very high). Total

members 2,738. Seven churches reported pastor's salary totaling \$285.00. Contributions to Missions \$208.66, Orphanage \$96.02.

In 1904 the Moderator called W. S. McLeod to read the 90th Psalm. He had read this same Psalm seventeen years ago when the Alexander Baptist Association was organized at Macedonia Church. Elder T. E. Redman led in prayer. The incumbent officers were elected.

Doctrine: "That the doctrines of the Bible are to the whole Christian system, what blood is to life."

The incumbents were reelected in 1905. The following visitors were welcomed: Wilson White, Caldwell Association; Elders I. Hollar, T. M. Snow, and A. M. Shaver, Brier Creek Association; Wm. H. Rich, Baptist Orphanage. After a touching speech by Brother Rich, a collection in the amount of \$15.00 was taken for the orphanage.

In the report on Church and Pastoral Relations, O.K. Keller urged the pastors to preach the Gospel, and spread the glad tidings of salvation to dying men. He urged each church to pay strict attention to the situation of their pastor so that their families would be well provided for and that they could have more time to read and study.

A resolution was passed: That we advise the Trustees of the Taylorsville Collegiate Institute to consider the proposition of the school authorities of Taylorsville, looking toward the establishment of a graded school upon the premises of the Taylorsville Collegiate Institute.

The Association adjourned for the funeral of Brother Jay Benfield, which was preached by Elder J. M. Shaver. His text was taken from Lamentations 3:27.

The Sunday School Committee recommended that the brethren set apart one or two suitable brethren whose duty it would be to promote, encourage, and strengthen the Sunday School work and to organize new schools where practical.

The Association met at Bethel in 1906, with the same officers reelected. Liledoun, a newly organized church with L. P. Gwaltney, pastor, was received into the Association. Messengers were: J. W. Watts, J. R. Fox and David Mitchell.

H. C. Moore, Secretary of the Sunday School Depart-

ment of the N. C. State Convention, gave an address on Sunday School. J. A. Scarboro of Summit, Georgia, spoke on Missions. The high schools at Taylorsville, Hiddenite and Stony Point were strongly recommended by J. M. Shaver. D. W. Pool reported on a visit to Brushy Mountain Association and L. P. and J. P. Gwaltney and D. W. Pool reported on a visit to the Brier Creek Association.

The 1907 meeting at Bethlehem featured Missions. W.R. Bradshaw of the South Fork Association gave an address on State Missions and Elder T. L. Blalock and G. P. Bostick, missionaries to China, spoke on Foreign Missions. An invitation was given. Two young men and one young lady consecrated their lives to Christian service.

A letter from Bland Street Church, Charlotte, with Elder L. R. Norket, pastor, and C. S. Holton, messenger, was received in 1907 and the church welcomed. Also, Mt. Nebo was received with J. N. Binkley, pastor, and B. F. Steele and J. T. Christopher messengers.

Each church was asked to set aside one day during the next year as a season of prayer for more laborers in the ministry.

Twenty-three churches reported 168 baptisms in 1907, restored 16, received by letter 83, dismissed by letter 108, deaths 37, excluded 19, pastor's salary from twelve churches amounted to \$832.83. Foreign Missions \$240.00, State Missions \$5.00, Associational Missions \$2.00, Orphanage \$58.43, Repairs \$485.28. Sunday School 15. enrollment 939.

The Association met at Concord in 1908 with the same officers elected. M. L. Kesler, Superintendent of the Orphanage, was present and spoke in behalf of that institution. Collection for orphanage amounted to \$10.35.

T. L. Blalock spoke on Foreign Missions and said farewell as he was sailing for China on October 27th.

The Association met at Damascus Church in 1909. On motion, the officers of last year were elected by acclamation. Bethany Church was received from Brier Creek Association, W. E. Linney. pastor.

The orphanage committee reported that the Baptist orphanage at Thomasville began work in 1885 and since that time about 1,000 children had been under its care. The plant consists of 450 acres of fairly good land near



Thomasville, 10 dormitories averaging about 38 children each, total of 382 at present. The value of the plant was set at \$125,000 and there is an invested fund of \$102,000; \$100,000 of it given by Dennis Simmons. The cost of maintaining an orphan is \$6.42 per month. There are 35 employees, a dozen who are teachers. The school is of eight grades, advance students go to the Thomasville High School. The religious advantages of the children are excellent. Rev. T. S. Crutchfield preaches twice each month. The Sunday School is bright and attractive. Some 500 Sunday Schools in North Carolina give a monthly offering to the orphanage, and a large number of churches make annual collections at Thanksgiving. A collection of \$22.82 was taken for the institution.

This resolution was offered: That this association disapprove of the lease of the Baptist School property at Taylorsville for the purpose of a public school. We do not object to a lease for a reasonable length of time or until we may need it for our own use, but do object to an indefinite lease which may hold the property for all time.

Submitted by R. L. Downs

The Trustees of the school had on August 20, 1909, leased the property to the County Board of Education for a high school with the provision that when it was not used for that purpose, it would revert back to the parties of the First Part, with all improvements. The lease was upheld. In 1912 the property was sold out right to the Board of Education for \$1000.00.

The Association met at Dover in 1910. The following officers were elected: L. P. Gwaltney, Moderator; R. L. Downs, Clerk; W. J. Bumgarner, Treasurer; W. S. McLeod, Historian.

Stony Point was received. Messengers were: A. W. White, Daniel Gryder and N. P. Stout. L. P. Gwaltney served as pastor. At his own request, Rev. Gwaltney was relieved of the position of Moderator and J. W. Watts was elected.

On motion by L. P. Gwaltney, brother W. E. White was requested to prepare a historical document concerning the pioneer Baptist within the bounds of this Association.



Brother White was authorized to have it published. This appears in the Minutes of the Association in 1911.

D. W. Pool made motion which was passed that the Association help pay the passage fee for Brother J.C. Blair, missionary to China.

The twenty-fifth session of the Alexander Association convened at Lebanon Church October 5, 1911. Attorney John L. Gwaltney was the new Moderator, the other officers were reelected. By special order, Brother E. L. Middleton, Sunday School Secretary of the Baptist State Convention, was given the hour of 11:00 on Saturday to address the Association on the subject of Sunday School.

On education, the committee noted that education was becoming a public and private concern. They were glad to report that the common schools were becoming better all the time, and gave their unqualified endorsement of the good work now being done at the State high schools at Taylorsville and Stony Point. They also recommended Wake Forrest College for boys and Meredith College at Raleigh for girls. Brother White presented the history as asked for last year. It appears in Minutes of 1911.

As arranged, Brother E. L. Middleton addressed the Association, at the close of which Elder J. A. White asked all to stand who would pledge to do more in the Sunday School work. A large number arose and Elder L.P. Gwaltney offered prayer that God would help them to keep their pledge.

Brother W. E. White offered a resolution that the Association invite Brother Middleton to come to a Sunday School worker's meeting at Taylorsville at any time that was convenient.

J. L. Gwaltney, Moderator, R. L. Downs, Clerk, and W. S. McLeod, Historian, were reelected with A. L. Watts, Treasurer in 1912. Mt. Herman was received into the Association. J. W. Watts, pastor. Messengers were A.L. Johnson and J. C. Johnson. Brother J. W. Griffin asked for aid and the prayers of the brethren in building a Baptist church in West Hickory.

Elder J. P. Gwaltney stated that he felt that the churches in this Association had never respected the pastor's right in the way of giving him support as they should. This is quite evident by my father, John G.

Harrington's report of Church Letters: Pastor's salary from 12 churches reported a combined salary of \$791.00, 11 churches reported nothing, total members 3,458, baptisms 165, by letter 44, restored 22, died 27, dismissed by letter 128, excluded 14. This 1912 Session was the writer's first Association. (at the age of ten) Some went very young back then. We stayed four days and three nights, Thursday morning through Sunday afternoon.

In 1913 session of the Alexander Association was held at the Taylorsville Church October 9-12. The Moderator being absent, the Association was called to order by L.P. Gwaltney, pastor of the host church. On motion, the following were elected by acclamation: J. W. Watts, Moderator; R. L. Downs, Clerk; A. L. Watts, Treasurer; W. S. McLeod, Historian.

Brother C. F. Friday presented a letter from White Plains Church asking admission, which was gladly granted. Brother Friday, W. C. Kerley and Jay Robinette were enrolled as messengers. West Hickory was also admitted, with E. V. Bumgarner pastor. Messengers were: J. W. Griffin and F. S. Miller.

By special order, Brother M. L. Kesler of the Thomasville Orphanage addressed the body in behalf of the orphanage at 7:30 p.m. A collection of \$11.35 was taken for said institution.

On Friday morning, Elder W. R. Beach of the Raleigh Association addressed the Association in the interest of the Biblical Recorder. Another notable visitor was Elder Livingstone Johnson, Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist State Convention. He spoke on Missions. A collection amounting to \$15.00 was taken for State Missions.

A church letter of 1913 showed: 23 churches, 3,483 members, 174 baptisms, by letter 59, restored 20, died 31, dismissed by letter 88, fellowship withdrawn 30. This term withdrawn was substituted for "excluded". Foreign Missions \$276.46, State Missions \$81.00, Orphanage, Church and Sunday School \$233.75, to the poor \$28.32. Minute fund \$20.17, building and repairs \$2,181.29. Seventeen churches reported a combined pastor's salary of \$1,198.90. Sixteen Sunday Schools had a membership of 1,205. Rev. J. B. Reid's widow received

\$7.50. On motion by L. P. Gwaltney a collection was taken for a widow in the community which amounted to \$12.92.

A special sermon was preached at the A.R.P. on Sunday by Elder D. W. Pool.

Stony Point was the host church for the October 8-11, 1914 meeting. The incumbents were reelected. According to special order, the Association met at 7:30 p.m. to hear Elder M. L. Kesler of the Thomasville Orphanage: The report showed 25 churches and a membership of 3,586, a gain of 102. Baptisms 246, letter 44, restored 7, dismissed by letter 86, died 23, fellowship withdrawn 7. Foreign Missions \$272.86, State Missions \$37.64, orphanage, Church and Sunday School \$236.75, building and repairs \$2,267.00, to the poor \$59.00, minute fund \$24.66, Home Missions \$73.00. Sixteen churches combined pastor's salaries amounted to \$1,004.00. Revival work \$130.00.

Brother John L. Gwaltney was appointed to the committee in charge of the funds arising from the sale of the Baptist School property at Taylorsville. The committee was to use the interest from said funds for ministerial education.

Elder James M. Shaver preached at the Methodist Church on Sunday at 11:00.

On motion by D. W. Pool the Committee on Finance was dispensed with in 1915. All money went directly to treasurer, except the Minute Fund which went to the Clerk to pay for the minutes of the Association.

Mt. Hebron, Beulah and Hiddenite, three newly constituted churches, were received into the Association. Messengers for Mt. Hebron were B. S. Kerley, R. G. Clanton and Vernon Wike. Messengers for Beulah were: U. P. Wilson, Sanford Anderson and Robert Steele. Hiddenite was received by letter only.

On motion by J. P. Gwaltney the word "County" was stricken from the name of the Association, making it read, "The Alexander Baptist Association."

Elder W. J. Bumgarner gave a stirring report on Missions, regretting the anti-mission spirit among some church members. Some did not hesitate to say, "I do not believe in missions." Many others expressed the same by their actions in not supporting it. The commi-

tee commended the mission work of Brother T. L. Blalock and his wife in China. Also, Sister Bostic, wife of Brother Bostic, another missionary in China, urged that the churches rally to their aid with better support. They also commended Brother H. A. Roshto in Lousisina, who had baptized one hundred Catholics this year. The work of Brother J. W. Watts, associational missionary, was very strongly recommended to the Association, which was bearing fruit to the honor and glory of God, in the bounds of the Association. The Association endorsed the action of Rev. Blalock in withdrawing from Angling, Rushin and other missionaries in China, on account of false and fanatical doctrines and practices.

In the 1916 meeting Elder J. W. Watts made an oral report on the mission work he was doing in the Catawba River section of the Association. On Sunday a collection of \$16.40 was taken for Foreign Missions. After an old-fashioned hand shake, the session closed with benediction by Elder J. P. Gwaltney.

Brother E. L. Middleton, Sunday School secretary of Baptist State Convention and Elder M. L. Kesler of the Thomasville Orphanage, were welcomed to seats in 1917.

Church letters were: 30 churches, 4,282 members, given to Missions \$544.71, Orphanage \$199.02, total of pastor's salary \$1,342.02, Sunday Schools 23, enrolled 1,692, baptisms 190. On Sunday, Elder J. P. Gwaltney made a brief but earnest talk and a collection of \$17.10 was taken for Foriegn Missions.

In 1918 there was no meeting of the Association because of the flu epidemic which was very severe. I remember this quite well. Many deaths resulted. The first in my family, a sister, Sadie.

In the absence of the Moderator, the Association was called to order by the Clerk in 1919. The following officers were elected: J. L. Gwaltney, Moderator; R. L. Downs, Clerk; E. E. Lackey, Treasurer; R. L. Davis, Historian. Elder R. Lee Davis read a paper on the Baptist 75 Million Drive. It was ordered printed in the Minutes of 1919. The report on Duties to Poor was read by Brother A. C. Payne and a collection of \$28.25 was taken for the Thomasville Orphanage.

## REPORT ON TEMPERANCE

As churches, we have nothing to do with the liquor question. As individuals we are responsible for the making and sale of liquor in the thickets of this Association. If the members of Baptist churches of this Association were total abstainers and would use their best effort, public sentiment would soon force intemperance from our land and country.

T. H. Williams  
A. F. Sharpe  
Committee

W. E. White in the Sunday School report of 1919 said, "Nothing is more important than teaching a knowledge of the Word of God to the youth of the country. This teaching is neglected in the home. Then where shall it be done? We beleive every church should have a Sunday School." Sermons were preached on Friday night at Hiddenite by B. F. Austin and Saturday night by T. H. Williams. Sunday D. W. Pool and J. L. Gwaltney spoke on Sunday School. ( I remember this at Sulphur Springs.)

The officers elected in 1920 were: J. L. Gwaltney, Moderator; R. L. Downs, Clerk; E. E. Lackey, Treasurer; J. B. Echerd, Historian. A Collection for the Thomasville orphanage amounted to \$37.28. Elder J. W. Watts recommended that our churches take collections quarterly for missions if not more often. In a mass Sunday School meeting Sunday morning, Elder J. A. White and others spoke. An afternoon sermon was added to the usual schedule by T. H. Williams.

J. L. Gwaltney and E. E. Lackey were reelected in 1921. R. W. Chatham, Clerk and A. C. Payne, Historian were elected. The treasurer being absent Brother J. G. Harrington (my father) was appointed to take charge of the mission money. The collection amounted to \$20.46.

Check to T. L. Blalock .....	\$422.30
Check to J. A. Abernathy .....	20.80
Orphanage .....	87.93
Balance on hand .....	353.83
	<hr/>
	\$884.86



Brother John Arch Abernathy was a young man who had joined Bro. Blalock in China as a Missionary. He was from Hiddenite and like Blalock was sponsored by the Alexander Baptist Association.

Brother A. M. Bumgarner presented a letter from Elizabeth Baptist Church of Charlotte asking for admission. The church was gladly received with A. M. Bumgarner, J. M. Meadows and J. C. Painter as messengers; T. E. Payne, pastor. Fairview Church was also received. J. P. Hendren, T. L. Querry and Clay Hendren were messengers; L. E. Barnes, pastor.

Elder M. L. Kesler addressed the Association in behalf of Child Welfare and the Thomasville Orphanage. A collection of \$29.41 was taken for the orphanage. A resolution was introduced by Elder W. C. Meadows condemning the teaching of evolution in our systems of education. This was discussed and unanimously adopted. (See copy in full in 1922 minutes) W. R. Beach addressed the Association in interest of the Biblical Recorder. The session continued with a Sunday School meeting and sermon by E. V. Bumgarner. A tender short talk was given by J. P. Gwaltney and Mun Fortner leading in singing, "The Lone Pilgrim" to close the session.

Dr. C. E. Maddry, Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist State Convention, was welcomed to the Association in 1923. He was given the 11:00 hour on Friday on the subject of Missions. Three Teague brothers who were preachers were present: Elders Leroy and Grover of the Caldwell Association and Loyd of Brushy Mountain. Elder Leroy spoke on the orphanage and a collection of \$18.03 was taken. In the absence of the treasurer, Brother E.E. Pool was appointed to take the orphanage and mission money.

At 11:00 Saturday E. V. Bumgarner gave the report on Missions which was discussed at length by T. L. Blalock, missionary to China. A collection of \$61.21 was taken for Foreign Missions.

Church letters of 1923 showed: 32 churches, 29 represented, membership 4,778, baptisms 194, by letter 64, restored 22, lost by letter 135, exclusions 8, deaths 41.



Twenty-four churches reported a combined pastor's salary of \$3,750.30, Ministerial help \$880.39, Orphanage \$545.89, Poor \$191.57, Foreign Missions \$701.12, State Missions \$30.00. Twenty-five Sunday Schools reported 2,035 enrolled. On May 28, 1923, the Baptist Hospital received its first patient. Mrs. Lem (Elizabeth) Laney was the first baby born there. She is the wife of Lem Laney, former county farm agent of Alexander County.

In 1924 J. E. Chatham was elected treasurer. The other officers were reelected. Dr. C. E. Maddry, of the Baptist State Convention, addressed the Association on State Missions. Elder T. L. Blalock gave an address on Mission Methods - Home and Foreign. Collection of \$70.17 was received for Foreign Missions.

East Taylorsville, with W. A. Wilcox, pastor, and messengers: T. J. Fortner, H. T. Campbell and R. L. Chamberlain; and Millersville Church, T. E. Payne, pastor; and messengers: G. W. Stafford, A. J. Stafford and Tom Howard, were received into the fellowship of the Association in 1924.

After the closing sermon by E. V. Bumgarner, Elder J. P. Gwaltney followed in a talk characterized by his usual earnestness and power. The brethren engaged in an old-fashioned hand shake and were dismissed in prayer by W. J. Bumgarner.

On motion the incumbents were reelected at the 1925 meeting. The new church, Smyrna, was welcomed into the Association with J. H. Boggs, pastor and R. W. Teague, Carl Fox and Q. L. Frye messengers. On Friday at 11:00, Dr. C. E. Maddry of the Baptist State Convention addressed the body on the work of the Convention. On motion by W. J. Bumgarner, Brother J. L. Gwaltney was appointed to visit the churches of the Association in the interest of missions and Sunday School. On motion it was ordered that Chairmen of Committees be limited to twenty minutes in discussing reports, others speaking on reports limited to ten minutes. A. C. Payne and C. E. Echerd were appointed to the State Convention. The following resolution was passed: That the Trustees of the Taylorsville Collegiate Institute collect and divide, as early as possible, the money now in their hands among the following churches: to-wit; Smyrna, Millersville, East Taylorsville and Fairview.

In the 1926 meeting Brother E. N. Gardner, representing the Thomasville Orphanage, gave an address on the operation of that institution and a collection was taken amounting to \$13.54. A resolution was passed to appoint E. V. Bumgarner, W. E. White and W. J. Bumgarner to prepare a biography of Elder L. Parks Gwaltney to be printed in the minutes along with a portrait, both are in the 1926 minutes. Elder Gwaltney died December 1, 1925.

The clerk, W. E. White gave a talk on the Centennial of Antioch Church. Brother White had been a very active member of said church and the Association, serving as Moderator seven years and Clerk four years, as well as serving on some committee most every year.

A motion in 1927 by A. E. Watts to dispense of reading the letters was carried. Heretofore, these had been read at the opening of each session. Elder J. P. Thomas gave a short but interesting talk on Baptist Young People's Union, forerunner of Training Union. On motion H. S. Deal and Rev. J. S. Stephenson were appointed to visit all Sunday Schools in behalf of the Thomasville Orphanage.

Gay's Chapel was gladly received into the Association: Z. V. Pool, C. W. Brown and C. B. Vinson messengers: J. M. McAlpine, pastor. A resolution by C. E. Echerd to change to a threeday session was returned by the Time and Place Committee as unfavorable.

The incumbent officers were reelected in the 1928 meeting. A motion to dispense with the reading of the letters was defeated. Brother A. C. Payne and W. E. White were asked to read them. M. L. Kesler of the Thomasville Orphanage and I. M. Mercer, representing State Missions were welcomed. M. L. Kesler made an interesting talk on the Orphanage. A collection of \$17.59 was taken.

The incumbent officers were elected by acclamation in the 1929 meeting. Walter Gilmore of Raleigh and Wade Bostic, missionary to China were welcomed. In the Orphanage report, it was stated that we have six children from Alexander County at the home at Thomasville. The amount of \$628.09 was given for their support. This averages \$18.47 per church and 11¢ per member. H. S. Deal urged that we do more this year. A collection of \$18.56 was taken for the Orphanage. Brother L. R. Sloan was appoin-

ted to visit the churches in the western part of the Association and L. T. Younger to visit the churches in the eastern part in the interest of the Orphanage. Mission gifts for 1929 totaled \$625.72, pastor's salary \$5.035.03. Stony Point led with \$1,144.00. Concord and Damascus reported nothing. Thirty-one churches in the Association, twenty-five of them in Alexander and the others from Ire-dell County. Brother Partee Russell announced that he was representing the Forerunner, Walter Gilmore the Biblical Recorder and J. A. McMillian Charity and Children.

On motion by Elder A. E. Watts, the present officers were elected in 1930. A motion by Q. L. Frye to have a two-day session instead of four was ruled out of order by the Moderator. The Moderator appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of W. J. Bumgarner, Q. L. Frye, and A.E. Watts, and asked them to report at once on the length and time of the next session. The committee made a majority to continue with a four-day session, and a minority report to cut down to two days, which was defeated.

Messengers to the State Convention were: A. C. Payne and A. E. Watts. Messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention was C. E. Echerd. Brother R. D. Covington spoke of the Orphanage. Collection for the Orphanage amounted to \$17.43. Thirty churches were represented, 259 baptisms, deaths 51, Sunday School 2,594, pastor's salary \$4,815.34. Missions \$613.84, Orphanage \$9.25, Pleasant Hill gave \$7.00 of this amount.

The following officers were elected in the 1931 meeting: J. L. Gwaltney, Moderator; R. B. McLeod, Clerk; G.L. Chatham, Historian; C. E. Echerd, Treasurer. By motion of A. E. Watts the reading of church letters was dispensed with. The various reports were read and discussed as usual. Homes were assigned the messengers. It was the custom for the local church families to take the messengers into their homes for the duration of the Association meeting.

The incumbents were reelected in the 1932 meeting. Elder E. V. Bumgarner gave the following report on Duties to the Poor: "The poor we have with us always, comes ringing down the ages and bids us open our eyes and see their needs, and seeing go quietly and freely to their aid. He that gives to the poor lendeth to the Lord" The spirit

of Christianity has prompted the Baptists of North Carolina to build and equip a home at Thomasville, opened in 1885, for the fatherless and motherless children. Where they are trained for time and eternity. We recommend that our churches give once a month to our poor at Thomasville and look well to those near our homes." A collection of \$9.33 was taken.

Elder C. C. Holland emphasized the importance of Sunday School, stating that where there was a strong Sunday School, there was or would be a strong church. He recommended a Sunday School Convention. The Moderator appointed a committee of Rev. Holland, C. W. Teague and C. E. Echerd to determine time and place for such a convention. It was announced for Saturday before the fifth Sunday in April 1933, at Stony Point Baptist Church from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The treasurer reported the minute fund was short. Rev. E. V. Bumgarner made a motion that each church send one dollar to the clerk. Sister Blalock, wife of T. L. Blalock, missionary to China, was present. Prayer was conducted by Rev. Howard Ford.

On motion by Rev. C. C. Holland, the present officers were reelected in 1933. The Association feels that it is carrying on God's work. It also feels that the love of the work is wanting and looks upon it with great sorrow. It urges the ministers and all Godfearing men and women employ God to revive us to our duty and that next year's Association may see a great gain in God's work, and that more interest may be shown by attending the Association. Missionary T. L. Blalock was present and welcomed.

C. E. Echerd reported a very interesting and inspiring Sunday School Convention at Stony Point as planned last year. About sixty percent of the churches were represented. Many expressed a desire for the Convention to be an annual affair. The Taylorsville Church has already extended an invitation for next year. The moderator appointed A. E. Watts, C. C. Holland and C. E. Echerd as the Sunday School Committee. They announced the Convention for April 28, 1934, at the Taylorsville Church.

Rev. A. C. Upchurch of Raleigh, representing the

Dry Forces of America, made an excellent speech urging the people of this Association to do what they could on November 7 to keep North Carolina dry. Representatives to the State Convention were: A. C. Payne, C. C. Holland and A. E. Watts. A special committee of R. B. McLeod, A. E. Watts and B. F. Peeler was appointed to foster the Thanksgiving offering for the Orphanage. It was decided to have only a two-day session next year.

The following officers were elected at the 1934 meeting: J. L. Gwaltney, Moderator; R. B. McLeod, Clerk; G. L. Chatham, Historian, and J. L. Watts, Treasurer.

The Sunday School Committee urged that all churches have Sunday Schools, and that they be given their proper place in the church. Likewise, they urged all Sunday School people to stay for the preaching service. All churches except Macedonia and Mt. Hebron made Sunday School reports. Total enrollment 3,105. Churches 32, baptisms 260, members 5,376, pastor's salary \$4,007.77. All gifts from churches \$8,304.96. This was the writer's first annual session as a messenger.

There was no change in officers in the 1935 meeting. A young people's meeting was set for 7:30 p.m., followed by an address by Brother J. A. McKaughan representing the Dry Forces. This being the fiftieth year of the Orphanage, the report was 771 children cared for; 481 at Thomasville, 135 at Kennedy Home and 145 with their mothers. Brother C. C. McKoin of the Home spoke to this report. Brother I. G. Greer was highly commended as the General Manager or Superintendent. The Orphanage depends largely on the once-a-month offering from the Sunday Schools and the Thanksgiving offering from the churches.

On missions, Brother J. L. Gwaltney quoted the last command of our Lord, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen." On this, Brother Gwaltney said, rests the hope of a lost world.

Brother Chatham resigned as Historian, and Brother J. W. Hendren was elected in his place. Brother Chatham



read a letter from Elder Blalock, missionary in China, and a collection of \$15.02 was taken for Foreign Missions. The report of the hospital was spoken by Brother Smith Hagman, Superintendent of the hospital. Collection for the hospital amounted to \$11.25.

A very successful Sunday School Convention was reported at Sulphur Springs Church on March 30, 1935. Outstanding speaker was Brother I. G. Greer. A committee of C. C. Holland, Fred Milstead, and A. C. Payne announced the next Sunday School Convention at Mt. Olive Church Saturday, March 28, 1936.

Beulah Church of Taylorsville presented a letter and was welcomed back into fellowship. Application is in the 1936 minutes. Beulah had joined in 1915, but had not reported since 1928. A collection of \$14.15 was taken for the Dry Forces. Rev. Roseboro Beach spoke in interest of the Biblical Recorder and Brother R. D. Covington for the Children Homes. Collection for homes amounted to \$10.00.

Speakers for the Sunday School Convention were Rev. Howard Ford who spoke on Jesus and young people; Rev. I. G. Greer, who spoke on Jesus and the poor and unfortunate. The sermon was preached by E. V. Bumgarner.

The officers elected for 1937 were: J. L. Gwaltney, Moderator, G. L. Chatham, Vice-Moderator; R. B. McLeod, Clerk, Fred Milstead, Historian; J. L. Watts, Treasurer. At first, officers were elected at the beginning of the session. Now they changed to the end of the session for next year, which is a better system.

The usual reports were given in the 1937 meeting. Visitors were: Brother Arch McMillian of the Children's Homes; J. A. McKaughan, from the Baptist Hospital, and M. A. Adams of the Dry Forces. Collections for missions amounted to \$15.22, hospital \$8.78.

Church letters reveal the amounts given: Pastor's salary \$5,279.12, Cooperative Program \$150.00, Missions \$820.79, Orphanage \$1,075.67, Hospital \$214.08 totaling \$7,540.46. Thirty-three churches were represented.

The W.M.U. reported that they were supporting a native missionary under Elder T. L. Blalock in China. Gifts: Salary \$34.00, for house \$40.65, Baptist hospital \$13.50, Lottie Moon Offering \$23.25; Mills Home



\$29.75, local expense \$46.20; Cooperative Program \$16.00. Vital churches was the subject of an inspiring and searching address by Rev. M. A. Huggins, Mission Secretary of the State Convention.

A meeting on Baptist Training Union (this replaced B.Y.P.U.) was held at 7:30 Wednesday. C. E. Echerd led a song service, Rev. C. C. Holland brought the devotion, Miss Lucy Thompson, Associational Director of the Baptist Training Union presided. Mrs. C. E. Echerd read the report of the W.M.U. for the last year and suggested that this was the missionary service of the church. Mrs. Walter Harrington, Misses Lucy, Eugenia, and Mary Connolly Echerd sang, "Jesus Shall Reign." Rev. W. R. Beach and C. W. Teague of Smithfield, were main speakers. The quartet sang, "A Charge To Keep I Have," accompanied by Miss Joyce Harrington.

Rev. Arch McMillian of Mills Home, spoke for the Orphanage in the 1938 meeting. A collection of \$22.35 was taken. A full report of Baptist Training Union appears for the first time, and this organization was recommended to all churches. The W.M.U. reported and promised faithful service and also asked to be admitted as an auxiliary of the Association. By motion of A.C. Payne, Brother C. E. Echerd was appointed chairman of a committee, which he may select, to raise money for the hospital.

The following officers were elected for 1938: A. E. Watts, Moderator, with Brother J. L. Gwaltney honorary Moderator; so long as he shall live. He had been Moderator for twenty-two years. R. B. McLeod, Clerk; J.L. Watts, Treasurer; Fred Milstead, Historian. Rev. E. V. Bumgarner was appointed to write a memorial of our departed Rev. W. E. Linney. Rev. Linney grew up in the Linney's Grove Church. This memorial appears in the 1938 minutes. He was the author of "The School Of The Prophets."

An amended Constitution was read and discussed by Brother A. C. Payne. After explanation as to why it would suit our Association better, it was adopted. It appears in the minutes of the 1939 session. Collection for the Orphanage amounted to \$22.79. After much discussion, a sufficient amount of money was raised to

eliminate the advertisements in the minutes.

In the hospital report of 1938, there have been 44, 635 patients since it opened May 28, 1823. Over 4,000 were treated last year. About 90 percent lived outside of Winston Salem. Seventy-two doctors and 42 interns gave \$196,177 in free service last year. There were 83 nurses and 51 student nurses.

Thirty-one churches reported 325 baptisms, 27 gave to the Orphanage, 26 to missions, 23 to the hospital. Brothers A. C. Payne, A. E. Watts and J. L. Watts were appointed to assist the clerk in shaping and proof reading the minutes. The officers elected for 1939 were: A. E. Watts, Moderator; W. C. Grose, Vice-Moderator; R. B. McLeod, Clerk; J. L. Watts, Treasurer; Charles Pool, Historian.

The Sunday School Convention was held with Damascus Church April 29, 1939.

Rev. T. L. Blalock, missionary to China, spoke on Foreign Missions in the 1940 session. Brother Early spoke for the Orphanage. Brother J. L. Watts was appointed to take orders from the various churches for cans from Mills Home to be filled next year. Baptisms reported were off almost half of last year.

During the last year, East Taylorsville and Stony Point added Training Unions to their church programs. Quarterly meetings were planned with the following officers:

Pastor Advisor: Rev. C. C. Holland  
Director: Miss Lucy Thompson  
Assoc. Director: Rev. J. D. Whisnant  
Sec./Treas: Miss Lucy Echerd

#### Leaders

Adult: Mrs. Rom Teague  
Youth: Mr. Yates Millsaps  
Intermediate: Miss Esther Ball  
Junior: Miss Christine Combs  
Story Hour: Miss Eugenia Echerd

Resolved: That the Alexander Association continue with increased spirit and fervor, blazing trails for those to come after us in time. That all departments of

our Missions program shall give vital expression to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords in money, talent and prayer. The Sunday School Convention was at Pleasant Grove Church March 30, 1940.

Brothers A. C. Payne, E. V. Bumgarner and C. J. Pool were appointed to investigate the application of Rocky Creek Church for membership in the Association in 1941. The medical school of Wake Forest College has combined with the Baptist Hospital, giving the hospital more doctors and nurses. In 1940, 4,099 patients were treated, 1,500 were charity and 3,000 turned away for lack of room. About 200 more beds will be added. Dr. I. G. Greer spoke for the Orphanage and \$27.01 was taken. Rev. T. L. Blalock reported that since the beginning of the Baptist China Direct Mission, the Lord has enabled us to lead 19 missionaries to China; most of whom are still carrying on in the great work. There were eleven Baptist churches and 70 towns with believers. The committee reported favorably of the application of Rocky Face Church and it was received.

Church letters showed 35 churches in the Association, pastor's salaries \$8,122.32, total local objects including pastor's salaries \$16,166.53, Cooperative Program \$298.49, all missions \$1,050.90, Orphanage \$1,464.06, total all purposes \$19,565.36.

Officers elected in 1941 were: A. E. Watts, Moderator; Ray Sherrill, Vice-Moderator; R. B. McLeod, Clerk; C. E. Echerd, Treasurer; C. J. Pool, Historian; Rev. E. C. Shoe, messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention. By motion, the moderator was authorized to appoint a superintendent for each of the following departments: Sunday School, B.T.U., W.M.U. and Vacation Bible School.

New pastors in the Association were recognized at the 1942 session. They were: Rev. Carter of Smyrna and Rev. Roger Gwaltney of Mt. Herman. Oxford Memorial Church presented an application, it was referred to the fellowship committee, which reported favorable and the church was gladly received.

A change in the meetings of the Association was adopted as follows: B.T.U. meeting in January, Sunday School in April, W.M.U. in July, the Association meeting in October. The Sunday School Convention met at

Sulphur Springs March 28, 1942.

Several churches reported progress in finance, but few on spiritual progress in 1943. It was hoped that this would improve. Brother L. L. Carpenter presented the Biblical Recorder. A new church, Mountain View, presented an application, which was referred to the committee of: Brother A. C. Payne, Rev. E. C. Shoe and Rev. E. V. Bumgarner. They recommended that the church which is now being organized be put on one year probation. This was accepted by the church.

Rev. T. L. Blalock, our missionary in China, spoke on that work. A collection of \$55.39 was taken for the starving in China. On motion by C. E. Echerd, the clerk was allowed \$50.00 for his work.

Two resolutions were offered by Rev. E. C. Shoe. First, that the Association name a committee of three pastors and two laymen to work with any group wishing to form a new church (with the moderator as ex-officio member). Second: That a committee of pastors and deacons sit in council with a sister church in the matter of ordaining a brother for the high calling of the ministry. Both were adopted. They appear in full in the 1943 minutes.

The following officers were elected in 1943. Rev. E. C. Shoe, Moderator; W. C. Grose, Vice Moderator; R. B. McLeod, Clerk; C. E. Echerd, Treasurer; E. V. Bumgarner, Historian. The moderator appointed the following Associational officers: Sunday School Superintendent, Wayne Austin; B.T.U. President, H. T. Gryder; W.M.C. President, Mrs. Leach Gooden; Vacation Bible School, Mrs. U. L. Hafer. On motion by H. L. Good, the Association voted that a moderator should not serve more than two years.

The Sunday School Convention was held April 24, 1944. There were 22 churches represented, with 25 teachers and superintendents and 13 preachers.

The Associational W.M.U. meeting was held July 4, at Smyrna Church. There were 14 churches represented, 18 deacons, 25 teachers and 9 preachers. The quartet from Oxford Memorial Church rendered special music.

The Association met with Taylorsville Church, October 4, 1944: The clerk, R. B. McLeod read a paper on

liquor, wine and beer which was voted to be placed in the minutes. The subject was "Yes, Worse Than Pearl Harbor". "When marriages are dissolved, expectant mothers assaulted, children are hungry and cold, justice and honor, righteousness and chastity, manhood and womanhood, love and pity are drowned with the bottle, beer parlors and night clubs, asylums and orphanages, road houses and jails are full and churches are empty--that is worse than Pearl Harbor."

The moderator appointed A. E. Watts chairman of the committee on Constitution of Churches. The retiring moderator appointed the others: H. L. Good, E. V. Bumgarner, A. C. Payne and R. Lee Teague. The committee on Ordination of Ministers was: E. V. Bumgarner, Chairmen; C. J. Pool, H. L. Good, A. E. Watts, W. C. Grose, R. B. McLeod and W. P. Smith.

The Sunday School Convention was held at Hiddenite April 29, 1945. Nineteen churches were represented. The enrollment reported was 2,751. Stony Point led with 220.

Four churches reported pastor's salary in four figures: Taylorsville \$1,730.50, Stony Point \$1,600.84, Three Forks \$1,132.00, Hiddenite \$1,017.00. Stony Point, Taylorsville, Smyrna and Antioch reported gifts to the Cooperative Program. Antioch, Stony Point and Taylorsville reported Baptist Training Unions and the same three, with Hiddenite, reported W.M.U.'S.

R. B. McLeod had served as clerk for sixteen years quite faithfully. He was given a standing vote of thanks. W. C. Grose was elected clerk.

The Association went to a two-day session in 1945.

Features of that session were: Building Through our Cooperative Work by M. A. Huggins, of the State Convention; Sermon by Howard Ford, Hospital, Charles E. Parker, Chaplain Baptist Hospital; Temperance, Rev. A. C. Reid, Superintendent of Baptist Hospital; Missionary Sermon, by Rev. E. V. Bumgarner, talk "Making a Place for our Returning Men" by William H. Williams of Charlotte. Miss Willa Marks, Associational worker in the Alexander and South Yadkins Associations, spoke on, "The Future of Missions."

A sextet from Wingate College furnished special



music. The college president, C. C. Burris, was also present. Mr. R. H. Satterfield represented Meredith College and J. B. Wills, Wake Forest College.

China missionary, T. L. Blalock, was recognized on his 80th birthday. He expressed a desire to return to China if possible.

Rev. Good, the host pastor, stated in closing, "When you leave us, we shall be a better and bigger church for you having been our guests."

The following officers were elected in 1946: A. C. Payne, Moderator; E. V. Bumgarner, Vice Moderator; Homer L. Good, Clerk; C. E. Echerd, Treasurer; E. C. Shoe, Historian. The Time, Place and Preacher Committee recommended that the next session be at Damascus October 9, and Three Forks October 10. This was adopted and has been followed since: Two sessions at different churches.

The program of 1946 was adopted, featuring Rev. C.C. Holland of Front Street Church, Statesville. His sermon was entitled, "A Christ-Centered Church". First: A Saved Church, Second: A Separated Church, Third: A Surrendered Church. Rev. R. H. Satterfield of Western Avenue Baptist Church, Statesville, spoke on Baptist Literature. He recommended the Biblical Recorder, Charity and Children, The Commission and the Home Mission.

Rommie Pierce brought greetings from Wingate College and the Wingate quartet sang, "My Anchor Holds" Rev. E. L. Spivey of the State Mission Board, spoke to the mission report, using the subject, "Working Together." The Wingate quartet sang, "What Did He Do." R. M. Hauss of the Allied Church League, spoke on Temperance. The incumbent officers were reelected.

On motion by E. C. Shoe, the Moderator appointed a committee to study the constitution, making recommendations to simplify and clarify the same (moderator being ex-officio).

J. A. Webster brought a report recommending the reception of the Rocky Face Church. The report of the committee was received and the church was unanimously voted into the Association. The pastor and messengers were given the right hand of fellowship and welcomed by the moderator, A. C. Payne.

Alexander Baptist Association was composed of 36



churches (Rocky Faces now makes 37) in 1946. Membership was 6,952, total offering \$57,882.88, local \$51,275.88, missions \$6,605.33. This is an average of \$7.50 per person per year of total gifts..not so good.

A. B. Bumgarner discussed A Christ-Centered Church very timely and appealing.

A committee was appointed to advise on an Associational missionary and report next year.

The Alexander Baptist Association held its 60th Annual Session at East Taylorsville and Taylor Springs Churches in 1947. The Association was called to order by A. C. Payne, Moderator. W. W. Harrington, Director of Music, led the congregation in singing, "Standing on the Promises." Rev. J. A. Icenhour read the Scripture from Romans 12:1-8. J. A. Webster led in prayer. The roll call reveal 118 messengers present.

Mr. Claude Gaddy and Dr. C. C. Burris spoke on Christian Education. M. L. Kendal brought greetings from Mars Hill College.

The committee on Associational Missionary reported that they beleive enough of our churches are interested to look further into this matter and recommended that the Executive Committee be named as a committee to investigate it fully and be given the authority to secure a missionary, if they think best. A. E. Watts was elected chairman of this committee. A motion that the moderator call a meeting of the Executive Committee as soon as possible for the purpose of securing an Associational Missionary carried.

The committee to study the Constitution brought a new Constitution for consideration (printed in the minutes). Members of this committee were: E. C. Shoe, A. E. Watts and A. C. Payne.

Dr. W. R. McGee of the Baptist Hospital, spoke for that institution. Dr. Greer spoke for the orphanage. Dr. John Wayland of the North Wilkesboro Church, brought a message on Christian growth. J. C. Pipes, missionary of the Baptist State Convention, delivered a message on "The Baptist Tank," which was most inspiring.

A committee last year recommended that Lot No. 86 at Ridgecrest (now owned by the Taylorsville Church) be purchased by the Association at a cost of about \$350.00,

and a cottage to be constructed as soon as advisable for the use of churches in the Association. This was never done.

The following officers were elected for 1948: E. V. Bumgarner, Moderator; H. L. Good, Vice Moderator; Walter Harrington, Clerk-Treasurer; A. C. Payne, Historian.

The Moderator, E. V. Bumgarner, being absent because of illness, H. L. Good, Vice Moderator, called the 1948 meeting to order at Poplar Springs. A good report of the various Baptist colleges was given and is recorded in the minutes.

Rev. R. H. Weaver, having been called as Associational Missionary, made a report. The work began March 1, 1948. He expressed readiness on the part of many of the churches to welcome such work, and hoped he would find it in all churches. To increase a spirit of greater unity and good fellowship, he suggested a monthly pastor's conference, more Training Unions, a Brotherhood, more W.M.U.S, more Vacation Bible Schools, and the strengthening of all activities of our church life by prayer and special effort.

A most inspiring and challenging sermon was preached by Rev. A. B. Bumgarner on "The Daring Christ," which is outlined in the minutes of 1948.

The rewritten Constitution, as recommended last year, was introduced. A. C. Payne made a motion that the consideration be postponed until the same hour next year. James Lail offered an amendment that four members, two from each side who had nothing to do with either Constitution, work out some middle ground upon which the Association could work. The amendment was defeated. The motion was likewise defeated. Brother A. C. Payne offered the Constitution from the minutes of the Association at Linney's Grove in 1939. This carried.

The Constitution, as adopted, was presented and appears in the minutes of 1949.

Dr. L. L. Carpenter reported that the Biblical Recorder now had a circulation of around 43,000. A slight increase in subscription rates had helped get out of the red financially. The aim is to make the Recorder a wholesome family weekly and a substantial denominational journal. It should be in every North Carolina Baptist Home. This is still true, as it has passed 110,000 in circulation.

Brother W. C. Reed, Superintendent of the Kennedy Home at Kinston, spoke on the Rights of Children: The Right of Freedom from alcohol, the Right of Freedom from divorce, the Right to a strong body, the Right to an education, the Right to spiritual training. Dr. W. R. McGee represented the hospital.

Brother A. C. Payne gave the report of the committee on church admission that Calvary Baptist Church be admitted into the Association. E. C. Shoe offered an amendment; that the matter be postponed until a future time. The amendment died for want of a second. H. L. Good moved that we adjourn and consider the matter at some future time. This motion being out of order, the Association voted to accept the Calvary Baptist Church into the fellowship of the Association, 1949.

In the temperance report, Brother A. C. Payne congratulated the Dry Forces in Alexander County in the beer election August 28, 1948. The result was 319 for and 2,741 against.

The Nominating Committee recommended the following officers: A. B. Bumgarner, Moderator; W. C. Grose, Vice Moderator; W. W. Harrington, Clerk. These were duly elected, but the Clerk, Mr. Harrington, offered his resignation because of pressing school work. It was accepted and Wayne Austin elected. Provided he cannot serve, the Executive Committee was empowered to secure someone.

Rev. Wendell Davis of Western Avenue Church, Statesville, presented the 1951 Evangelistic Crusade which included simultaneous revivals in the churches of the entire eastern section of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Association voted to support the plan.

Miss Mable Starnes of Gardner-Webb College spoke on Training Union, A. E. Watts on Vacation Bible School and Ethel Hafer on W.M.U. Dr. E. L. Spivy of the State Convention, brought an inspiring message on the Cooperative Program. Dr. C. C. Burris, president of Wingate College brought greetings, and special music was rendered by a duet from the college. J. L. Wells was elected clerk.

James Lail reported on education. The Southern Baptist Convention has three seminaries, one missionary training school, twenty-nine senior colleges, twenty-three junior colleges and seven academies. North Carol-

ina Baptist have seven colleges: Wake Forrest, Meredith, Mars Hill, Gardner-Webb, Wingate, Campbell and Chowan. These schools are training 5,000 students each year and 4,000 of them come from our Baptist homes, and will be leaders in every walk of life. Also, we have a pastor's school at Fruitland and at Caswell, which are training pastor's. The moving of Wake Forest College to Winston-Salem, along with its enlarged program, is no doubt North Carolina Baptist' greatest undertaking in the field of education.

J. L. Wells reported on the Baptist Hospital. The North Carolina Baptist Hospital was incorporated in 1922 and received its first patient May 28, 1923. It was originally a 100 bed hospital, but in 1942 was enlarged to 260 beds, and 55 bassinets. A nurses home, outpatient building, west wing and laundry building have been added. The Wake Forest School of Medicine was expanded from two years to four and renamed the Bowman Grey School of Medicine of Wake Forest College (now a university). The School of Nursing has operated from the beginning and has graduated 447 nurses. The Department of Religion was added in 1945 for teaching, preaching and reaching. There are on the average, three babies born per day; Mrs. Lem Laney had the first. The food bill amounted to \$555.55 in 1945; there were thirteen operations, 18 emergency visits per day, 500 persons employed. Last Year 9,700 patients were treated, 90,000 visits were made to the clinic for examination and treatment. About half of these had little or no money. This free service was provided largely by the Mothers Day offering of \$128,900. During 1949 there were 188 visits from the Alexander Association, sixteen of them service patients at a cost of \$2,112; \$823.68 of this amount was paid by patient or family. All doctors fees were free. The hospital is planning to add a south wing and is appealing for \$700,000 for it. This was in 1950. Even then it was a GREAT INSTITUTION OF HEALING, TEACHING, PREACHING AND REACHING.

Rev. James Lail led the singing for the 1951 session. Horace Easom spoke for Wake Forest College and Miss Mable Starnes for Gardner-Webb College. Kathryn Price and Betty Hinson of Gardner-Webb brought special music. C. W. Bazemore, Business Manager of the Baptist Hospital, spoke for

that institution and Rev. James Hayes for the Baptist Home for the Aging. In November, the State Convention authorized the Committee to make plans to open and operate the home as soon as possible. On January 9, 1952, Brother Hayes was appointed Superintendent and Miss Edna Heinzerling, Director of nurses at the Baptist Hospital, supervisor. A three story brick fire proof building was secured for fifteen years at \$1.00 per year. The home opened March 16, 1951. It was immediately filled with twenty residents. When the top floor is finished, sixteen more can be accommodated. This will cost about \$23,000. The assets are now \$50,000 and the Home is operating in the black. The Home provides four things: security, comfort, congeniality, and Christian ministry. The residents are happy, as John Holt said, "I never thought I would be so happy in my last years of life." Mr. B. C. Philpot of Lexington, N. C., said in making a contribution of \$1,000 in honor of his son, "I consider this one of the most important forward steps the Baptist of North Carolina have taken in a long time.

Three Forks Church received a letter of dismissal to join the Rocky Face Association in 1951. This body had been organized in 1950.

The Alexander Association met with Taylorsville Church on the Centennial of the forming of the Taylorsville Association which took place at this church October 25, 1852. Billy Rowe Campbell, Minister of Music at the host church, led the singing for the session. A trio from Wingate College furnished special music.

D. P. Brooks, Sunday School worker, spoke on Sunday School. Early Bradley, field worker for the State Convention, spoke on missions and Horace Easom on Brotherhood.

David Boaz offered a resolution: That the previous resolutions in regard to Constitution of Churches and Ordination of Ministry be stricken from our records and not be printed in our minutes in the future. This carried.

A very fine sermon by David C. Boaz is given in the minutes of the 1953 session.

The Moderator, James Lail, called the 1953 meeting to order and led the singing. The new pastors, Rev. I.



V. Couch, Hiddenite, and Rev. Gordon Wilson, Smyrna, were recognized.

Dr. C. C. Burris, President of Wingate College, presented a trio from the college who furnished special music. The guest speaker, Rev. Robert Franklin, Pastor of Wilkesboro Church, was presented by David Boaz.

One new pastor, Rev. O. W. Pully of Hiddenite Church, was recognized in 1954. Special music was furnished by groups from Gardner-Webb and Wingate Colleges.

At Little River, Fred Watts, Alexander native of Kannapolis, led the music in 1955. Dr. Bud Smith, President of Wingate College, spoke on Christian Education. A group from the college sang for the Association.

Officers elected were: James Lail, Moderator; R. Love Dixon, Vice Moderator; Miss Marcella Hines, Clerk-Treasurer, Charles E. Echerd, Historian.

David Boaz suggested a night session next year and invited the Association to Taylorsville First Church. Dr. L. L. Carpenter of the Biblical Recorder spoke on Christian Literature and Dr. M. A. Huggins, of the State Convention, spoke on missions.

Rev. Zeb Caudle spoke for the Home for the Aging in 1955. Rev. Maurice Gilliam, Pastor at Hiddenite, and Miss Ruth Hawkins, Music Director at Stony Point, were recognized. Bethany Church was dismissed at their request to join the Brushy Mountain Association. Macedonia requested to come back into the Association and was welcomed.

Special music was rendered by the Taylorsville choir, accompanied by Mrs. Walter Harrington at the organ for the night session. Gary Harthcock and Don Adcox were the speakers for this session. The session at Hiddenite featured Rev. R. F. Smith, Pastor of Kennedy Home Church, and Claude Gaddy for the Home for the Aging.

Officers elected for 1956 were: A. E. Watts, Moderator; W. O. Johnson, Vice Moderator; W. O. Warren, Clerk, Charles E. Echerd, Historian. Brother Lail invited the incoming Moderator to the platform and assured him the cooperation of the Association for the coming year. A good sketch of the annual sermon, "Our Threefold Commission", by H. L. Good, is in the minutes of 1955.

Mrs. Gene Foy, of Stony Point Church, led the sing-



ing at the 1956 session. Attention was called to the theme of the year: "Into All The World." Dr. Blackwell, of Mars Hill College, spoke on Christian Education. Dr. Young of the Hospital spoke on the Ministry of Healing. Guy Cain and Brother Spivey spoke on missions and Brother Caudle on the Home for the Aging.

The night session at Mt. Herman Church featured Brother R. E. Gordon a missionary to the Philippine. His subject was, "We Would See Jesus," pointing out how anxious the natives were to hear the Gospel.

Thursday, Rev. F. V. Ellis, new pastor at Oxford Memorial, was recognized. C. J. Morris spoke for the Orphanage, and W. H. Spalding spoke on Training Union. Rev. R. M. Hauss brought a message concerning the Allied Church League.

Rev. Hinkle Little led the music for the session of 1957, with Lucy Echerd as pianist.

C. W. Baremore of the Biblical Recorder spoke on Christian Literature, and Calude Gaddy on missions.

The officers were called to the front and Rev. Love Dixon led in a dedicatory prayer. The officers elected were: M. R. Grant, Moderator; J. A. Icenhour, Vice Moderator; W. O. Warren, Clerk, James Farthing, Treasurer; Charles Echerd, Historian, and A. E. Watts, Associational Missionary.

Maurice Grant, Moderator, called the 1958 Association to order. Mrs. I. V. Couch led the songs.

A. E. Watts stated that Mt. Olive Church wanted to return to the Alexander Association. I. V. Couch made the motion and they were received. The following new pastors were recognized: Robert Winecoff, Antioch; Mack A. McCurdy, Liledoun; Wade Miller, Mt. Olive; J. H. Watts, Pleasant Hill.

Rev. Julian Hopkins spoke on the evangelism report, and Brother Bazemore of the Biblical Recorder spoke on our Baptist paper. Rev. W. B. Pittard moved that a committee be appointed to receive the scholarship fund that the First Baptist Church had set aside for Fruitland Bible Institute, and take care of other donations that might be received. The motion carried. Committee members were: W. B. Pittard, W. O. Warren, A. D. Lindsey.

A. E. Watts, Associational Missionary, stated that he was pleased with the progress of the Association during the past year, and introduced Rev. Spivey. Brother Spivey stated that the Alexander Association had just about exceeded all others in the state in advancement.

Mrs. Roy Rogers was recognized. She had attended the annual meeting for 22 years without missing. Officers elected were: R. M. Grant, Moderator; R. L. Dixon, Vice Moderator; W. O. Warren, Clerk; J. B. Farthing, Treasurer; A. E. Watts, Missionary; Charles Echerd, Historian.

In the absence of the pastor, A. D. Lindsey welcomed the Association to Stony Point in 1959. Mrs. Couch led the music. I. V. Couch introduced Frank Koger, who spoke about the extension work of our seminaries becoming possible in our Association. Mrs. Gilliam sang, "The Love of God."

Rev. Robert Winecoff announced the coming Central Training School and urged the support of all churches. Mrs. Jim Robinette sang, "It Took A Miracle." Rev. James Hayes, Superintendent of the Home for Aging, spoke for that institution. The Hiddenite junior choir, directed by Mrs. Gilliam, offered special music.

Dr. Douglas Branch, General Secretary-Treasurer of the State Convention, brought a stirring message using, "Our Baptist Work," as his subject.

W. B. Pittard moved that the Moderator appoint a committee to revise the Constitution to include the recognizing of the Departments of Music, Missions, Evangelism, and Finance. That all department heads, committee chairmen, active pastors and one member from each church make up the Executive Committee. Committee members appointed were: R. L. Dixon, Robert Winecoff, W. C. Grose.

Rev. J. C. Canipe, President of Fruitland Bible Institute, brought an inspiring message on "The Christian Life."

Officers for 1961 were: Moderator, James W. Teague; Vice Moderator, Horace Moree; Clerk, W. O. Warren; Treasurer, James B. Farthing; Historian, Lucy Echerd; Missionary, A. E. Watts; S. S. Supt., R. M. Grant; T.U. Director, Mrs. Earl Teague; WMU President, Ruth Foy; Brotherhood Pres., A. D. Lindsey; Music Director, Lucy Echerd.

New pastors that were recognized were: Walter Howell, Hiddenite; James Lockee, Liledoun; Ralph Yarboro, Mt. Herman; J. A. Icenhour, Pleasant Hill.

W. O. Warren noted noticeable increase in the church letters in several respects. A. E. Watts, Missionary, called attention that this was the second year that every church in the Association had had Vacation Bible School. He also talked about the extension classes for the coming year. Claude Gaddy spoke on Christian Education. The Association increased the scholarship at Fruitland Bible Institute to a full scholarship of \$175.00 for 1961-62.

The revised Constitution was adopted. The main change was to recognize the Dapartments of Music, Evangelism, Missions, and Finance. This Constitution was printed in the 1960 minutes.

The Clerk, W. O. Warren, gives these highlights of the year: Antioch - largest attendance in Sunday School and in Training Union. Beulah - largest number of Baptisms, Stony Point - largest gifts to missions, Lebanon and Poplar Springs - doing remodeling, Mt. Herman - a new parsonage and Liledoun - in the process of building a new parsonage.

## DEDICATION

The minutes of this Association Session were dedicated to Charles E. Echerd.

Charles E. Echerd was born May 25, 1892, at Ellendale. The son of John B. Echerd and Lula Bowman Echerd. He married Flora Lee Gwaltney April 25, 1913. They had three daughters and one son. (Miss Lucy Echerd succeeded Mr. Echerd as Historian of the Association.)

Few laymen gave so unreservedly of his time to his Baptist faith, the Alexander Association and the First Baptist Church of Taylorsville. At the time of his passing, he was church clerk, vice president of the Brotherhood, member of the Long Range Planning Committee and a member of the church choir. He had served as Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and Director of Music. Besides Historian, he had served the Association as Treasurer for several years. He was well informed on Alexander County Baptists. Mr. Echerd took his victorious leave Feburary

29, 1960, and is buried in the Taylorsville Cemetery after the funeral at Taylorsville First Baptist Church by the pastor, William B. Pittard.

The theme for the 1961 meeting was "How Great Thou Art." The Clerk counted 145 at the opening of the session. Dr. W. R. Wagoner, President of Children's Homes and Dr. W. K. McGee of the Baptist Hospital spoke in behalf of those institutions. Special prayer was offered for Rev. W. Otto Johnson who had given up the pastorate of the Poplar Springs Church because of sickness and was now very ill. W. A. Mitchner brought a fine message on missions. Mr. Mitchner, a businessman from Oxford, N.C., is a world traveler interested in missions. Special music was rendered by a quartet of pastors: Ralph Yarbboro, James Lockee, Hayden Cartner and Hunter Church.

The theme song, "To Go Be The Glory," was used in the 1962 session. The seventy-fifth Annual Session of the Alexander Baptist Association met with Pleasant Hill Church for the fourth time. R. Love Dixon served as moderator. James Lockee led the theme song. Five new pastors were recognized: Olive Price, Bethlehem; Glenn Moree, Beulah; Lawrence Barber, Millersville; Guy Rogers, Mt. Olive and Ray Shumate, Pilgrim. T. L. Sassner of Homes for the Aging and W. R. Wagoner of the Children's Homes spoke for those institutions.

W. O. Warren asked the session to set aside Tuesday as a day off for A. E. Watts, our Associational Missionary, and that a letter be written to all the churches asking that they honor this action, to give him this much rest.

A quartet of ministers offered special music for this session.

Walter Howell, pastor, welcomed the messengers to Hiddenite on Thursday. James Lockee led, "To God Be The Glory," again. Pilgrim Church did not answer for the second day. R. L. Dixon turned the chair over to Horace Moree, Vice Moderator, and introduced Dr. J. C. Canipe who brought an inspiring message on Christain Education.

The afternoon session opened with the theme song, "To God Be The Glory," for the fourth time. W. B. Pittard led in the installation of officers for next year.

They were: R. L. Dixon, Moderator; Horace Moree, Vice Moderator; W. O. Warren, Clerk; Lucy Echerd, Historian.

The minutes of this session were dedicated to Attorney Abner C. Payne, an outstanding layman. Mr. Payne united with the Taylorsville Church from Union in Caldwell County. He served the church as Deacon and Sunday School Superintendent for thirty years, also as clerk and teacher.

Mr. Payne was Moderator of the Alexander Association in 1946 and 1947. He also was Historian for awhile and was a leading Baptist layman. He received his law degree from Trinity College (now Duke University), and was very active in civic and community affairs, being a Mason and for years Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star.

In appreciation for his many services to his church and the Association as a Baptist layman, the minutes of the Seventy-Fifth Annual Session of the Alexander Baptist Association are lovingly dedicated.

Officers for 1963-64 Were: Moderator, Horace Moree; Vice Moderator, Olive C. Price; Clerk, W. O. Warren; Treasurer, James B. Farthing; Historian, Lucy Echerd; S. S. Supt., Edd K. Elliot; T. U. Director, Mrs. Earl Teague; W.M.U. President, Evelyn Keller; Brotherhood President, A. D. Lindsey; Church Training Director, Robert Winecoff.

The theme for the 1963 session was, "When Thou Pray-est." All churches were represented. Six new pastors were recognized: Frank Johnson, Beulah; Wade Rogers, Linney's Grove; Charles Clake, Mt. Herman; Herman Johnson, Little River; John Scalf, Stony Point, Marion Powell, Taylorsville First Baptist.

The junior choir of Bethlehem Church brought special music. Ben Fisher spoke on Christian Education and Brother Nelson of Mars Hill College said a few words.

Thursday, Wade Rogers led the devotion. Robert Winecoff, pastor, welcomed the group to Antioch. A. E. Watts announced a luncheon for R. L. Dixon and D. R. Kerley, pastors who were leaving the Association. He also spoke on extension classes and the Central Training School. Shirley Robinette brought a message in song. Ralph White asked for a standing vote of appreciation for Rev. A. E. Watts, our Associational Missionary. Robert Winecoff was



added to the list of officers as Director of Training. Dr. W. K. McGee brought a message from the hospital.

The theme for the 1964 annual session was, "Time To Awake" (Romans 13:11-14, Ephesians 5:14-16). East Taylorsville and Damascus were absent at roll call. Guy Cain spoke on the Annuity report. Special music was offered by M. and Mrs. Walter Howell, Nancy Shin and Marion Powell.

A memorial for Rev. A. E. Watts was discussed and a committee appointed to bring it up the next day. William Poole, Superintendent of Home for the Aging spoke briefly. Robert Winecoff gave the mission report and asked the session to come prepared the next day to take some action as to a new Associational Missionary.

Thursday, Rex Hampton welcomed the session to the Millersville Church. The clerk called Damascus and they failed to answer. Horace Moree spoke in honor of Rev. A. E. Watts.

Marion Powell reported for the special committee of W. O. Warren, Robert Winecoff and himself the following recommendation: That the work of the Association be carried on by a secretary for one year. Mrs. Walter Howell was elected for this position.

The minutes of this session were dedicated to A. E. Watts. Marion Powell led the installation of officers for next year.

## DEDICATION

We, the Alexander Baptist Association, wish to affectionately dedicate these minutes to the memory of our beloved missionary, the Rev. Atwell E. Watts.

A. E. Watts entered the gospel ministry in 1920. He was ordained by the Yadkin Baptist Church of Caldwell County in 1924 and for forty years has served churches in Caldwell, Iredell, Wilkes and Alexander Counties.

Since resigning his pastorate at Bethlehem Baptist Church in 1957 because of ill health, he had served as Alexander County Associational Missionary. In spite of ill health, he lived to realize a life-long ambition; to see the churches in this county strengthened in fellowship and mission endeavor.



Few men gave of themselves to the Lord's work as did Atwell E. Watts. His untiring efforts for spiritual unity shall reap rewards for many generations. Most appropriately, a Memorial Fund was established at this 77th Annual Associational Meeting for the expressed purpose of carrying on the mission program.

Atwell E. Watts departed this life on Sunday, October 11, 1964, for a greater reward and a greater work. Therefore, it is with deep gratitude that we dedicate these minutes to one who gave humble service, faithful leadership, and loyal devotion to helping others. He truly "walked with God."

Rev. R. Tom Greene, of the State Convention, explained the work of the Cooperative Program.

Roger Williams from the Children's Homes spoke on that report, and Guy Cain on Annuity. He urged churches to provide for their pastor's retirement. Dr. W. K. McGee brought a message on the social services of the hospital, Children's Homes and the Homes for the Aging. Miss Patricia Price of Bethlehem sang, "The Lord's Prayer." Oliver Price announced the Seminary Extension classes to begin Thursday, November 4, and urged everyone to attend.

Horace Moree offered a motion in protest of a liquor outlet in the town of Taylorsville, and after discussion, it was adopted (listed in the 1965 minutes). W. O. Warren suggested that a committee be appointed to go see Damascus Church with regard to their relationship to our Association. This was referred to the Executive Committee.

Mrs. A. E. Watts told the session what the Association meant to her and how much it meant to have a part in its program by contributing the office and facilities in her home. Rev. Robert Winecoff presented a chair and \$25.00 stating, "This gift is not a payment for services rendered. It is simply gratitude and love put in a tangible form."

Music was rendered by Cindy Walker, Terry Houpe, Jane Gwaltney, Julia Martin, Linda Goble and Renee Adams of the Hiddenite Church. Tony Bennet, missionary to East Pakistan, brought a missionary message and closed the session with prayer.

At the night session, Miss Kay Rogers showed slides of her work with the Home Mission Board in Oklahoma during the past summer.

Rev. Charles Clark welcomed the session to Mount Herman on Thursday. Miss Shinn led the music and H. I. Johnson had the devotion. The moderator called attention to the revised Constitution explaining the changes and why they were necessary. After discussion, it was adopted without opposition. The resolution against the liquor store was reaffirmed (page 25 of the 1965 minutes).

W. O. Warren stated that the trustees would like to know about property that might be available for a mission office and home, especially if someone would donate property for this purpose. The Taylorsville Trio brought special music.

Brother Warren announced the offer of a lot, without charge, for a missionary's home and office by Mrs. Charles and Lucy Echerd. He thanked them for the most generous offer stating that the Trustees would be in touch immediately.

The eightieth Annual Session of the Alexander Association met at Calvary Church in 1967. Marion Powell moderator and Grady Blakely led the devotion. Hinkle Little welcomed the messengers. All churches except Damascus were represented.

New pastors and workers were welcomed: Miss Jane Martin, Minister of Music, First Baptist; Grady Blakely, Orford Memorial; Marvin Willis, Antioch; and Finley McCoury, Mountain Ridge. Charles Wilson spoke for the Hospital and Thurston Bowman for the Children's Homes. Bill Lamb spoke for the Baptist Foundation and C. W. Bazemore for Christian Education.

On motion by Oliver Price, the time of the annual meeting was changed to one week later - Wednesday after the third Sunday in October for two days. Dr. Bob Heafner sang, "Love The Lord Thy God With All Thy Body." Marjion Powell asked the Vice Moderator, Arthur Jenkins, to take the chair. Special music was brought by the ministers quartet: Marion Powell, Walter Howell, Marvin Willis and James Lockee. Mountain Ridge Church came under the watch care of the Association for one year.

Marvin Willis led the devotion for the night session.

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Marion Powell gave a personal testimony. W. O. Warren said a few words about the new Association office and invited everyone to visit it after the session on Thursday. Walter Howell showed slides of each church in the Association. The college choir from Gardner-Webb College sang several numbers, directed by James Snyder. Dr. Poston, President of the college, brought the message.

James Lockee welcomed the meeting to Liledoun on Thursday. Guy Cain spoke on the Annuity Board and the Cooperative Program. In a resolution, the merchants were urged to examine their literature and keep it Christian. Oliver Price led the election and installation of the officers.

Ralph Brunson, missionary to Malayia, brought the closing message.

The Executive Committee approved a lot and building for an Associational office three and one-half miles south on Highway 16.

Mrs. Rene Tally spoke for the Baptist Homes, Payton Brown for the Baptist Foundation, Frank Campbell for the Biblical Recorder, Harry Walker for the Baptist Hospital, and Don McIntyre for the Children's Homes.

Marion Powell gave the Associational Mission report. He expressed appreciation to Mrs. Walter Howell for her service as Promotional Secretary, and recommended Mrs. Kenneth Kerley for the position as Mrs. Howell was moving away. Mrs. Kerley was elected. Doug Willett spoke briefly on the Crusade of the Americas.

A message in song was brought by Marvin Willis, Doug Willett and Walter Harrington. Henry Cook read the Scripture and Marion Powell preached the annual sermon.

The night session featured special music by the Bethlehem Choir, directed by Mrs. Oliver Price.

The Thursday session was opened with a hymn. Grady Kerley led the devotion and welcomed the messengers. Marvin Willis led the pastors in some special singing. The theme song of the Crusade was sung by Lucy Echerd, Nancy Carrigan, Marvin Willis and Walter Harrington, accompanied by Jane Martin.

The Moderator called attention to the Executive Committee's report that Mrs. Kenneth Kerley, our Promotional, had resigned. She was presented a watch in

appreciation for her service to the Association. Walter Harrington was elected to this position.

Special prayer was offered for Doug Kerley who was in Baptist Hospital. (He recovered and was a star football player.) Marion Powell gave a report on the Crusade which was held in the summer, and was very successful. Appreciation was expressed to Rev. Powell for his dedication and service in leading the Crusade. The First Baptist choir furnished special music. Dwight Isenhour, Superintendent of Alexander County Public Schools, brought the message on Training.

The Association continued on Thursday. Roy Jester led the devotion and welcomed the group to Lebanon. The clerk was authorized to have a map showing the location of the churches in the Association printed in the minutes.

Rev. Howard Ford, Director of Missions in the state, spoke on missions. We were very fortunate in this Annual Session to have Drs. Crouch and Ford of the Convention with us. Both were originally from Alexander County. Also, Dan Snyder, a ministerial student at Gardner-Webb, spoke on Christian Education. Dan is from Bethlehem.

The Association voted to express our appreciation to Marse Grant of the Biblical Recorder for his strong stand on the liquor question in the recent fight.

The Association met at Poplar Springs October 21 and Hiddenite October 22, 1970. Henry Cook, moderator and W. O. Warren was the clerk. Terry Childers led the singing and Raymond White the devotion. Woodroe Brookshire of the Children's Homes spoke for that institution. Rev. Brookshire grew up in the Poplar Springs Church.

The moderator called attention to the Executive Committee report, that Mrs. Kenneth Kerley had been asked to take Rev. W. O. Warren's place as clerk, because of Rev. Warren's health.

The new pastors recognized were: Raymond White, Mt. Herman and James Meacham, Beulah. The minutes were dedicated to Rev. W. Ortho Warren, clerk for the past thirteen and one-half years. A motion to express our appreciation to Brother Warren in a tangible way was referred to the Executive Committee. Joe McDuffie reported that the note on the Association office had been paid in full. Special music was brought by the First Baptist Trio.

## DEDICATION

It is with hearts of deep gratitude that we, the people of Alexander Baptist Association, dedicate these minutes of the Eighty-third Annual Session of the Alexander Baptist Association to Rev. W. O. Warren, our Associational Clerk for the past thirteen and one-half years.

We remember "without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love."

In 1971 the Association met with Bethlehem Church on October 20 and Mountain Ridge on October 21. Henry Cook served as Moderator. Mrs. Kenneth Kerley, Clerk. Oliver Price led the devotion and welcomed the messengers. Ray Shumate, Pastor of Smyrna, and Dr. Henry Anderson, Interim Pastor, Taylorsville First, were welcomed. Oliver Price spoke for the Associational Missions and urged all churches to give 3% of their total contributions to this cause.

Special music was rendered by the Hand Bell Choir of the First Church, Taylorsville, under the direction of Terry Childers.

The minutes were dedicated to Hal M. Teague of the Bethlehem Church, 1935-70. Mr. Teague has been described as a man with a big heart. His personal integrity, his high Christian ideals and his concern for others interwove his service to his Lord, his church, his family and to the total life of his community.

In the absence of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, C. D. Poole, called the Association to order at Oxford Memorial Church October 18, 1972. Gary Jennings led the devotion and Otis Goins, host pastor, welcomed the messengers. Frank Stiele of Mississippi, sang the theme song, "people to People." Twenty-one of the 22 churches were present.

Larry Smith led the congregational singing. The feature of the meeting was a report of the Christian Action League by the President, Coy Privette. He pointed out some of the things that take place in our General Assembly, especially "Liquor by the Drink" coming up.

The vice moderator called on the Promotional Secretary, Walter Harrington, to preside. He called attention



to our Association at work.

On Thursday, the Moderator, A. D. Lindsey, presided over the meeting at Pleasant Hill. Thomas Stevens led the devotion and H. I. Johnson gave the welcome. The clerk recognized Mrs. Roy Rogers who had been clerk of Poplar Springs Church for thirty-one years and is now resigning. She has attended the annual sessions of the association each year.

Eugene Warrick, Chairman of the Missions Committee, recommended that the Association co-sponsor, with Taylorsville First Church, in a mission in the Lake Hickory section. The recommendation was adopted. Stanley Frye was elected pastor. The trustees were authorized to buy two acres of land for the mission. The mission to be under the direction of the Missions Committee and the Promotional Secretary or Associational Missionary.

The eighty-sixth Annual Session met with Little River Church October 24, 1973. A. D. Lindsey served as Moderator and Mrs. Kenneth Kerley, Clerk. Walter Harrington led the congregational singing. Ronald Rowe led the devotion and Arthur Jenkins the welcome. Richard Anderson was recognized as pastor of Mountain Ridge Church.

Three Forks and the mission church, Grace Baptist, were received under the watchcare of the Association for one year, then to become members in full fellowship.

The Thursday session was at Linneys Grove Church. Richard Anderson led the devotion and William Nicholson welcomed the group. Gary Jennings thanked the people for their cooperation with the Christian Action League and encouraged all to stand up and be counted in the fight against Liquor by the Drink. Alexander County was second only to Wilkes in the vote - Wilkes 8.8 to 1 against, Alexander 8.7 to 1 against. Alexander led the state in regard to contributions with more than three times the amount asked for.

General Officers for 1974 were: Walter Harrington, Promotion Secretary; Raymond White, Gen. Board Rep.; Robert L. Boggs, Moderator; Ronald Rowe, Vice Moderator; Mrs. Kenneth Kerley, Clerk; Miss Lucy Thompson, Treasurer; Lucy Echerd, Historian; David Glover, Music Director.



The theme for the 1974 Annual Session of the Alexander Baptist Association was "Share the Word with our Neighbor." The theme song, "Share His Love", was led by David Glover. Visiting speakers were: Coy Privette, who spoke for the Biblical Recorder and the Christian Action League. Calvin Knight spoke for the Hospital and Rex Evington for Mills Home. Roy Robertson represented Gardner-Webb College, Tom Greene, the Cooperative Program and Elmer Thomas the South Yadkin Association.

Grace and Three Forks Churches were received in full fellowship.

The minutes were dedicated to Walter W. Harrington, Promotional Secretary or Director of Missions for the past five years.

Rev. Ronald Rowe preached at Stony Point and James Hester at Smyrna.

The big news of the 1975 session was announced by Rev. Nane Starnes - the building of a new home for the aging at Asheville. A track of twenty-one and one-half acres was being bought and plans for the home were in the making. About a million and one half dollars would be needed. Walter Harrington was appointed Chairman for the Association and Mrs. Marvin Childers, Rev. Stanley Frye and Mr. Joe McDuffie were selected as group captains, each having eight churches. Each person was urged to contribute to this most worthy and urgent cause.

The new officers were recognized: Ronald Rowe, Moderator; Marshall Sargent, Vice Moderator; Mrs. Mildred Chapman, Clerk and Mrs. Gloria Sargent, Treasurer.

The minutes were dedicated to Mrs. Florrie Kerley, Clerk for the last five years.

Rev. Grady Kerley preached at Pilgrim and Rev. Leroy Clack at Millersville.

The eighty-ninth session of the Association was held at Mt. Herman and Three Forks on October 30 and 31. Darryl Reed led the music.

Mrs. Ethel Lee, a resident of Hayes Home, stated how wonderful it was to live at the Home and how she helped with Bible Study, Communion, ect there.

Rev. James Lambert, our Area Missionary, brought an inspiring message from II Kings 7. Rev. Dale Hooper, missionary in Kenya, told of his work there.

The minutes were dedicated to Miss Lucy Echerd, organist for a number of years and Historian since taking her father's place on his death in 1960.

Rev. Ray Shumate brought the annual message at Mt. Herman and Rev. Gary Jennings at Three Forks.

The Association voted to have this History of Alexander Baptist published.

The ninethieth session of the Alexander Baptist Association met with East Taylorsville Church October 19, 1977 and Antioch October 20. All 24 churches were represented.

Nane Starnes spoke on the North Carolina Baptist Homes for the aging, stating that there were 230 residents in the five homes. He urged support of the new home being built at Asheville.

Thurston Bowman, a native of Alexander, now treasurer of Baptist Children Homes, spoke for that institution.

Rev. Kenneth Lambert, pastor of Bethlehem, brought the Annual sermon.

The second day at Antioch Rev. James Lambert, area missionary, spoke of the things that an association can do that a church cannot do alone.

Walter Harrington was presented a watch and plaque representing his eight years as intern Director of Missions. He retired October 7, 1977.

Rev. Roger Wall, pastor of Linney's Grove, brought the inspirational message to close the session.

The feature of 1978 was selling the associational office building on highway 16 south and buying a dwelling on 5th Ave. S.W. in Taylorsville. Mrs. Sargent, Promotional Secretary, and all concerned seem to be pleased with the move. The minutes of this session were dedicated to Rev. D. L. Bumgarner who has preached the Gospel over the County for many years, and now pastor of the Millersville Church.

## THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

In 1925 the Southern Baptist Convention and the North Carolina Baptist Convention adopted what has

proved to be the most effective Mission effort ever tried by any religious group - The Cooperative Program. This is the Baptist way of following Christ's command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel".

The first year only Taylorsville and Smyrna contributed through this system, \$15 and \$10 respectively. By 1930 Antioch, Hiddenite, and Mt. Olive adopted it. In 1936 Taylorsville led nine churches with \$130. By 1942 the Alexander Association reached almost \$300 and the next year passed \$500, and \$1500 in 1951.

In 1952, the centennial of the original Taylorsville Association, we had \$2355, led by Stony Point with \$1158. In 1955 Taylorsville gave \$1924 and East Taylorsville \$1650, of the total of \$6477. The next year East Taylorsville matched First Church and the association passed \$7000, with 11 churches giving in this way.

Nineteen fifty-nine was the banner year. Twenty churches of the twenty-two gave a total of \$16,600. In 1960 the association passed the \$20,000 mark. In 1963 Three Forks passed \$5000 and Stony Point and Antioch almost reached it, the association passed \$25,000. In 1968 Antioch had \$11,000 plus the association \$41,000. Contributions kept climbing, Antioch and Bethlehem showing over \$11,000 each and the association \$52,000. Last year Antioch gave \$20,215 and the association \$70,528. The total mission report was about \$200,000.

Our Baptist Homes for the Aging report that Three Forks led the State Convention in gifts to that institution last year. For years Liledoun has led the association in contributing to the hospital.

## SOME OBSERVATIONS

God has richly blessed the Baptist of Alexander. Before 1800 there were two Baptist churches in this section: Little River and the New Meeting House of Middle Little River. Now there are 24 in the Alexander Association, ten in Rocky Face Association and four or five others.

In the beginning the buildings were of logs. In the late 1800's frame structures began to appear. In 1918 the Taylorsville Church erected a brick building,

and since then more and more brick has been used until now most all of the churches are of this type.

At first it was the practice to have a Saturday afternoon sermon and business meeting. All members were expected to be present for the roll call on Saturday. On Sunday there was another sermon. This was a once-a-month meeting. The ministers were paid nothing, in most cases. These servants of God earned their living by the sweat of their brow. They would travel long distances on horse-back over mere trails in many cases. Sometimes they had to leave home on Saturday morning and did not get back until Monday about noon. If there are degrees of reward in Heaven, surely these men of God deserve the highest.

For almost 100 years the men had complete control of church affairs. One church even asked the Association if women should be allowed to vote in church meetings. This was left up to the individual church. The first record of women on a committee was in 1888 when Taylorsville Church appointed Miss Dorcas Sloan and Miss Jane Harrington to raise money for repairs on the church building. The year before the Alexander Association was organized in 1987, Taylorsville had only six male members. This may account for the women on the committee. The first female messengers to the Association were Maggie McLain from Damascus in 1928, and Mrs. Joe Painter and Mrs. A. M. Bumgarner of Elizabeth Church of Charlotte in 1929. Other females were sent in most every year until 1936 when White Plains sent a whole delegation of women. Mrs. M. E. Little, Mrs. Hessie Mayberry, and Mrs. H. C. Barnes. In 1976 there were 76 female messengers to 21 males. Only Pilgrim had a complete delegation of males. Eight churches sent all females. In 1956 Beulah Church elected Wilma Settlemyre, Mary Lee Jolly and Lacy Kerley Trustees, another first.

As stated above, services were once a month until 1899 when Taylorsville went to the first and second Sundays. However, it seems that this was for only one year. In 1924 East Taylorsville, Millersville and Taylorsville had services twice a month. In 1928 Antioch dropped the Saturday afternoon service and had two Sunday morning services. In 1939, Rev. C. C. Holland gave Stony Point and Taylorsville four Sundays each: two mornings and



two evenings. In 1949, Rec. E. C. Shoe of Taylorsville became the first full-time pastor. Now all the churches of the Alexander Association have full-time services; most of the pastors living on the field in fine pastoriums. Pilgrim recently obtained a lot and is planning to build.

In 1976 Little River went into a new sanctuary, Antioch did the same on September 4, 1977. Hiddenite and Macedonia are also building new sanctuaries and will be in them before the end of 1977. Grace is building an educational building and fellowship hall. Pleasant Hill and East Taylorsville are also planning such building. Recently Three Forks, Mount Herman and Smyrna have added structures of this type. As a whole, the church buildings of Alexander are truly first class.

There have been churches that we do not have now, but in each case, I believe we have others in the same community. For Mt. Gilead we have Sulphur Springs, Liberty Grove was replaced by Three Forks, Center by Oxford Memorial, named for the family which was outstanding in Center and for Charity we have Smyrna. Antioch was started by the people of the New Meeting House of Middle Little River.

Alexander County is well supplied with Baptist Churches in every community.

Before publishing date of this history, Macedonia will have gone into their new sanctuary and East Taylorsville into their Family Activities Building.

## ALEXANDERIANS IN NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST LIFE

Alexander County has furnished its share of Baptist workers in the state. As history was being written we had five outstanding men born in Alexnader serving the Baptist of North Carolina.

Dr. W. Perry Crouch, General Secretary-Treasurer of the State Convention was born in the Antioch section of the county, where his mother was a member. The family moved to Caldwell, then Catawba. Crouch received his high school education at Hichory and college at Lenoir (now Lenoir-Rhyne) and Campbell College.

His wife, Floy Mae Havener, died in 1967. They had three children: Dr. William Henry Crouch, Charlotte, Dr. Robert Perry Crouch, Asheville, (deseased in 1972), and Dan Crouch, Burlington. He married Mrs. Charley Maddry in 1969. Dr. Crouch served the following churches: First Baptist, Hollis, Oklahoma, Calvary, Morganton, First Baptist, Fayetteville and First Baptist, Asheville. Dr. Crouch is the great grandson of Rev. Jacob Crouch who preached over Alexander in the early days. Dr. Crouch retired as General Secretary-Treasurer of the N. C. State Convention December 31, 1975.

Dr. Haward J. Ford, grandson of our noted minister, Jay P. Gwaltney, grew up in the Linney's Grove section. He finished school at Hiddenite, Wake Forest College and Southwestern Seminary. He studied further at Prinston Theological and Union Theological Seminaries, New York. He served the following churches: First Baptist, Sparta, Wilkesboro First Baptist, First Baptist, Elkin, and Winter Park, Wilmington. He married Miss Lucille Smith of Stony Point, a former Miss Alexander County. They have two daughters: Mrs. Daniel (Virginia) Lockamy and Mrs. Claude (Linda) Farrell, and one son, John Ford III.

Dr. Ford served as Chairman of the General Board and President of the State Baptist Convention. He was director of Missions of the Convention, but retired December 31, 1978. He went to Germany in 1979 to serve an English speaking church for one year.

J. Marse Grant was born at Hiddenite, but grew up in High Point where he was educated in high school and High Point College. He received the Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree in 1972. He was married to the former Mariam Gibbs of Greensboro. They have a daughter, Carol, who is a member of the Governor's Committee on Architectural Barriers and speaks all over the United States. The other daughter lives in Statesville and is active in Baptist life. Mrs. Grant writes for the Biblical Recorder.

Before becoming the first layman of the Recorder since Josiah Baily, January 1, 1960 Grant had edited the Chariety and Children for ten years. The Biblical Recorder has passed 110,000 in circulation.

Grant's first book "Whisky At The Wheel", the scandal of Driving and Drinking has proven one of the all time



best sellers of the Broadman Press. It has had four printings. He has been a leader in the fight against Liquor by the Drink over the state, and was recently named to the Commission to study Law pertaining to the sale and consumption of Alcohol in North Carolina. Grant has served in many places of importance in civic and service groups. He is the North Carolina member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

Woodrow N. Brookshire, born August 31, 1913, a native of Alexander County, grew up in the Poplar Springs Community. He graduated from Taylorsville High School and received his B.A. Degree from Wake Forest College, a B.D. Degree from Southern Seminary and the M.S.W. from the University of N. C. He also completed the Intern Course in Pastoral Counseling at N. C. Baptist Hospital and Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Brookshire served pastorates in Kentucky, Indiana and North Carolina for a period of twenty-five years. He became associated with the Baptist Children's Homes in 1962. During these years he served as social worker, social work supervisor, Director of Social Services, Unit Director and Intake worker at Mills Home.

Rev. Brookshire died April 24, 1977, at Mills Home Orphanage, Thomasville. He was buried at Three Forks, Alexander County, following services in the Mills Home Church.

Thurston Bowman was born in the Three Forks Community of Alexander County January 1, 1923. He was educated at Taylorsville High School, Kings Business College, and Catawba College. He has served Children's Homes as treasurer since 1961.

The honorable R. Z. Linney stated that no section of like size and polulation in the county has produced more famous men than Alexander County.

Miss Elizabeth Campbell has been Associational Missionary in the Caldwell Association for some thirty years or more.

William Goble Jr. has served in the same capacity in the Catawba River Association for several years.

The writer, Walter Harrington served the Alexander Association for eight years, retiring in 1977. Previously he had taught in the public schools for 41 years, serving as teacher, coach and principal.

## ALEXANDER ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

### ANTIOCH

The New Meeting House of Middle Little River was organized June 7, 1797 with Rev. Edward Teague pastor and 22 members. The building burned in 1825 but was not rebuilt on the same site known as the Munday Graveyard.

On July 29, 1826 a Baptist Church called Antioch was organized by the leaders of the former church and located about a mile west of the original site. A log building was erected and later an arbor. In 1875 the log house was replaced by a frame building, and this by a stone structure which was occupied August 17, 1941. A Parsonage was built in 1952, and an Educational building in 1953. In 1977 a beautiful sanctuary was built and the old building renovated.

Antioch continually leads the association in contributions to the Cooperative Program, and has sent 11 ministers including four Teague brothers and three Kellers into His service.

### BETHLEHEM

A Meeting House called Bethlehem was built about 1830 for all denominations. It was sued by any preacher who had an appointment and for funerals. It was a popular place for the Associational Missionary, especially James Shaver and W. J. Bumgarner who served a good long time as pastor after it became a Baptist Church.

Bethlehem Baptist was organized December 1871 with 17 members and Hrim West pastor. In September 1889 the church was admitted into the Alexander Association with W. J. Bumgarner. He was succeeded by his son Ernest V. Bumgarner who served many years. Atwell E. Watts also served long and well.

### BEULAH

Beulah Church had its beginning in 1913. The Taylor-

sville Cotton Mill built a building for a place of worship for the mill people. U. P. Wilson had been having Sunday School in a dwelling on the "Hill" A revival was conducted by Lloyd Teague and Frank Austin with 20 baptisms.

The church reported to the Alexander Association in 1915 with Frank Austin pastor. On December 2, 1956 the church voted to build a new building on Cherry Street (now the Black Oak Ridge Road). In 1959 the association met in this new beautiful new building. The church reported 133 members. A parsonage has been built and recently the church renovated and more space added.

### CALVARY

Calvary Church was instituted April 11, 1948 with 15 members and G. L. Osborne pastor. The first building was frame with grey brick siding. A large sanctuary and 20 Sunday School rooms was completed in 1966. New furniture, an organ and piano were purchased.

Randy Little was ordained June 20, 19 and called as associate pastor. He is the son of Rev. Hinkle Little who has been pastor of the church 25 years, making him the oldest in the association in the point of service.

### EAST TAYLORSVILLE

East Taylorsville was organized February 2, 1924. Rev. A. W. Wilcok was called as pastor. A frame building was erected and served until 1949 when the present building was erected. It was renovated and a pastorium built in 1964-65. A playground and picnic area has been provided. A family ministry building with 10,000 square feet of floor space was built in 1978. It also serves as a children's church and for youth activities and fellowship.

### GRACE

The first worship service of Grace Baptist Mission was

February 2, 1973 with 27 in attendance and Stanley Frye minister. The mission was sponsored by Alexander Association and Taylorsville First Baptist Church. On November 11, 1973 the church was formally organized with 49 members and Stanley Frye called.

In December a building was started and occupied in the spring of 1974. The church grew to 260 members by June 1976 when Rev. Frye resigned. He is now an evangelist.

The church called Richard Hik in July 1976. An addition for Sunday School was completed January 29, 1978. The church has grown from 49 to 300 in six years.

### HIDDENITE

Hiddenite Church was organized June 20, 1915 with 17 members from Sulphur Springs and 5 from Bethel. Rev. L. P. Gwaltney was called as pastor. He served four years. E. V. Bumgarner served seven and C. C. Holland ten.

The original frame building was replaced by a brick structure. They have now finished a larger sanctuary with the first service September 25, 1977.

### LEBANON

Lebanon Church was organized March 29, 1884 with 41 members and S. D. Barnes pastor. The Bumgarners and Fortners have been the leaders of this church.

Lebanon was admitted into the Brushy Mountain Association in 1884 and became a charter member of the Alexander Association in 1887. The first building I knew was a frame structure which was replaced by a brick building in 1945. Later Sunday School rooms were added and a pastorium built in 1965.

### LILEDOUN

A church building was erected at Liledoun by Dr. John Moore on the property of his mill in 1900., and

and used by all denominations until 1906 when Liledoun Baptist Church was organized by L. P. Gwaltney, Jay P. Gwaltney and others. L. P. Gwaltney was called as pastor and served until June 1918 and again in 1923-24.

A new church was completed in 1949. In 1956 the Educational Building was built and a parsonage in 1960. Liledoun has had nine men answer the call to the ministry.

For the last five years Liledoun has led the association in gifts to the hospital, Foreign Missions and our Children's Homes.

### LINNEY'S GROVE

Linney's Grove was organized October 2, 1895 with 33 members and Jay Gwaltney pastor. The next day they were admitted to the Alexander Association. The Hendrens and Gwaltneys have been pillars in this church. With the first building there was an arbor. The present brick building was erected in 1953 and a parsonage in 1971. In 1977 there were 227 members and 215 in Sunday School. Roger Wall is pastor.

### LITTLE RIVER

The first Baptist Church and perhaps the first of any denomination in what is now Alexander County was Little River. Dr. Pascall records that Little River was admitted to the Yadkin Association in 1791 with Elder John Swain delegate. It was reasonable to assume that he was pastor. Elder Edward Teague is listed as delegate in 1795.

In 1822 Little River joined in organizing the Brier Creek Association, and the Lewis Fork Association in 1837. She entertained this body in 1844. In 1847 there was the greatest revival ever in this section, 158 persons were baptised. In 1849 the pastor, Smith Ferguson ordained nine ministers. One of them, John G. Bryan, succeeded Ferguson as pastor in 1851 when the controversy arose.

This controversy was over the Sons of Temperance.

Which has already been explained.

The first log building was replaced by a wood structure which was bricked in 1959. A new sanctuary was built in 1976 with a fellowship hall and kitchen. The old building was converted into Sunday School departments.

### MACEDONIA

The first record of Macedonia was in 1836 when it was received into the Lewis Fork Association with Vandiver and John Teague delegates, and Smith Ferguson pastor. Macedonia joined in forming the Brushy Mountain Association in 1872, and the Alexander Association in 1887. She entertained the first session of this body.

The frame building was bricked and remodeled and Sunday School rooms and basement added in 1959. A fellowship hall and kitchen were added in 1964 and a new sanctuary built in 1979.

### MILLERSVILLE

Millersville Manufacturing Company gave a track of land for religious services in 1921. Services were begun under a tent, then moved to a house donated by E.E. Munday. In 1923 a church was organized with 15 members and a Sunday School enrollment of 20.

G. W. Stafford, J. A. Stafford and Tom Howard carried an application to the association in 1923 and was accepted. The first building was erected by Perry Benfield with free labor. In 1951 Ben Thompson furnished the lumber and Lon Thompson his labor to build three Sunday School rooms. In 1958 Rhodes-Whitener gave more land and the church was remodeled. In 1965 more land was purchased, a cemetery was laid out and a parsonage built.

### MOUNT HERMAN

Mount Herman Church was organized in October 1912. There were 72 members from Three Forks, Liledoun, Antioch



and Lebanon. About 25 were soon added. The first lot was given by Norman Daniels, later two acres by Lee Watts.

The first building was a small structure with four walls. In 1936 a brick building was erected. Norman Daniels bought the brick and Lee Watts hauled them from Statesville free of charge. A three story building was built in 1953 and another including a kitchen and Fellowship Hall in 1975. A parsonage was built in 1960 on land donated by Clyde Stine. Membership in 1976 was 200 and Sunday School 170.

### MOUNT OLIVE

This church was first called New Prospect, but changed to Mount Olive. The first service was under a Brushy Arbor. The church was organized in 1865, and united with Lewis Fork Association the same year. She joined in forming the Brushy Mountain in 1872, and also became a charter member of the Alexander Association in 1887.

The church was remodeled in brick in 1953 and an Educational building erected in 1964. E. V. Bumgarner served the church three times and his father, uncle and cousin also served. Churches practiced the yearly call of pastors.

### MOUNTAIN RIDGE

Mountain Ridge Church began with prayer meeting in the homes of the community. As the crowds grew they moved to Dempse Pennell's storage building. Mr. Pennell donated land for a church and a building was completed August 19, 1955.

At first the church was nondenominational with 12 members, and became an Independent Baptist Church. On April 30, 1967 voted to become Southern Baptist and united with the Alexander Association.

### OXFORD MEMORIAL

In the spring of 1942 a group began meeting near Pender

Calwell's home. A revival followed and they decided to form a new church. Oxford Memorial Church was organized with 19 members. The name was for the Oxford families who had been the leaders of Center Church, especially Rev. Isaac Oxford.

Oxford Memorial was received into the association in 1942. The present brick building was completed in 1965, and the parsonage also the same year.

## PILGRIM

Pilgrim was first called Big Spring. It was organized in 1937 as Pilgrim. In 1852 the Sons of Temperance agitation brought dissension to the church, and several members were excluded for joining this body. A resolution was passed forbidding anyone who belonged to a secret order to fill the pulpit. This resolution was later rescinded.

## PLEASANT HILL

Pleasant Hill Church was organized January 31, 1852 with William Pool pastor. In 1854 trouble arose over the Sons of Temperance, and this church, like Pilgrim, passed a resolution forbidding services by anyone who was a member of a secret order. Like Pilgrim it was later rescinded, when several leading preachers became Masons.

In 1856 Pleasant Hill appears as a member of Lewis Fork Association desiring the prayers of the association for their cold condition.

The church was rebuilt in 1885 and some think again in 1902. The present building was erected in 1952, one hundred years after its beginning. More was built in 1962, 1967 and 1970. The parsonage was built in 1974. In 1977 the church voted to build an Educational building with Fellowship Hall and kitchen.

## POPLAR SPRINGS

Poplar Springs was organized July 27, 1872 with 17

members. The church was first called Lambert Fork and located about a mile of the present site. It was changed to Poplar Springs and moved about 1885. Poplar Springs united with Brushy Mountain Association in 1877 with 75 members and D. M. Knight pastor. The total contribution that year was \$1.25. She became a charter member of Alexander Association in 1887. The membership was still 75, but when the association met there in 1903 it was 110, in 1948, 185; 1960, 231 and 1976, 304.

The present building was built in 1944, enlarged in 1960. The largest gift was the hardwood flooring from Rev. W. O. Johnson and wife. Rev. Johnson was pastor of the church for 23 years, and was forced to retire of ill health. He was succeeded by Devon Dyson who is still pastor after 18 years, making him second in the association in the point of service.

#### SMYRNA

On October 23, 1923 Quez Frye an evangelist singer led the people of his community to organize Smyrna Church with 30 members. It was sponsored by Highland Church of Hickory.

A building was erected and occupied August 1924. Improvement has been made from time to time. The parsonage was built in 1956. A spacious Educational building with Fellowship Hall and kitchen was built in 1973.

#### STONY POINT

Stony Point Church was organized October 3, 1909 with 23 members and L. P. Gwaltney pastor. She joined the Alexander Association in 1910. Gwaltney continued as pastor until 1918 when he had to retire because of health and age. He was succeeded by E. V. Bumgarner who served 14 years.

The Educational building was built, and the church went to half time during C. C. Holland's pastorate 1932-1939. H. L. Good served 1943-58. During this time the

church bought a pastorium, remodled the auditorium, brick-  
ed the outside, and put in memorial windows. The Educational building was enlarged.

Bumgarner Hall was built in 1954 and named for the second pastor. It was replaced by a more spacious building in 1978, named for A. D. Lindsay an outstanding layman of the church and association.

## TAYLORSVILLE

On October 6, 1851 51 Christians who had been excluded from churches in Alexander, Wilkes and Ashe Counties and five blacks met in Taylorsville and formed the Baptist Church of Christ at Taylorsville (Taylorsville First Church). Smith Ferguson was called pastor and continued for ten years. This church, as others met once a month on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. The church doors were open in the business meeting on Saturday. If anyone joined they went to the mill pond at the foot of the hill next to the Jaycee Park and was baptised, even in December or February as the church minutes show.

The original log building was replaced by a frame structure in the 1890's and this by brick in 1918. The sanctuary was enlarged and an Educational building was started in 1948 and finished in 1952. A cottage was built at Ridgecrest in 1958, the pastorium in 1967 and the Children's building in 1968. The Dr. Moose house was bought in 1977 and set up as a Youth house.

Rev. L. Parks Gwaltney was called to the church three different times, serving 20 years, retiring in 1918 because of age and health. His pastorate was the longest in the church's history. Ernest Bumgarner who followed Gwaltney served 15 years.

## THREE FORKS

In May 1857 38 members of Little River Church asked for dismissal to form a church at the graveyard. The group met called a Presbytery and constituted a church, called Three Forks of Little River. In June 20 more were added.

J. B. Powell and J. G. Bryan were called as pastors (Often churches had two or three pastors). Powell could not serve so William Pool was called in his place. L. P. Gwaltney was called three times serving 14 years in all. W. Jeffie Bumgarner served 21 years and his son Ernest served 24 years.

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For want of space the history of individual churches has been cut short. A longer sketch will be found in the Alexander County Library. Also a history of the Taylorsville Collegiate Institute.

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